

SEA TO SKY INTERGROUP "Inspire Recovery"

Name of Intergroup: Sea to Sky Intergroup

General geographic area: British Columbia (coastal mainland)

Number of Groups: 25 (13 currently on ZOOM)

Intergroup Chair: Lynne M.

Website address (if any): www.oaseatosky.com

News from our Intergroup: At SeatoSky IG, the Traditions are our focus. Whenever a member group raises a question or asks for input, we turn to the Traditions. We have ceased giving our opinions, for the most part. When an idea reaches the stage of a Motion at IG, we no longer use Roberts rules and voting. We reserve those methods for special times when consensus has been sought, not found, and where a decision must be made. Quickly. There are few times where we have felt this push to "counting". Mostly we have the time and the grace to seek HP's guidance and we are all the stronger for that. And we are all the healthier for this, I believe.

Member groups are continually at work spreading the message of recovery for newcomers and those still suffering. We have just completed two events: an IG sponsored ZOOM marathon and one member group developed a ZOOM based weekend round-up of many speakers, many themes and much appreciation by members. The service that went into planning and executing both events was considerable and appreciated by all attending the events. More events are desired and being planned. June is our Election Month and so begins another year.

How has your Intergroup adjusted to the changing public health environment? Members led the way in starting up ZOOM meetings. Thankfully, our website administrator (a member) and a member who has served in the past as our Treasurer worked closely and quickly to facilitate member groups as they established their presence online. She also created a virtual meeting directory quickly. Intergroup never missed a regular meeting date and also went online quickly. Living in British Columbia, I think that our provincial Health Officer, a physician and an epidemiologist led all of us to "Be Calm, Be Kind and Be Safe." We Canadians are rule followers and, hence, OA and most of our citizens have followed her recommendations for safe physical distancing. Thus, our changing health environment had a provincial leader guiding us all and our program of acceptance within OA allowed members to view ZOOM as the safest venue for fellowship, for now. Isolation or a fear of a return to isolation is mentioned in meetings as is the gratefulness we hold that we have the ZOOM option.

Thanks to Tim, April, Jamie and many others for our ZOOM meetings.

Has the OA fellowship worked closely with all virtual meetings in your area been strengthened or weakened by the current public health environment? Yes, definitely, many hands have made for great work. Some digitally proficient members like Tim quickly identified the need for ZOOM meetings. Our website administrator educated those who may never have used ZOOM before by putting “How To’ articles online and by offering 1-1 help.

I am of the opinion that we have been strengthened by all the 12-step service that has gone on.

Whatever the reason, we now have IG members volunteering to consider and set up hybrid meetings as we enter Phase 3 in the pandemic.

Why? Why have we been strengthened? Perhaps members stepping up to give novel service, quickly, is noteworthy to the membership. Perhaps the threat of a pandemic makes us all a little more grateful. Perhaps we have many recovered souls who truly understand the importance of service to the fellowship.

Retreats and/or Events we have offered this year:

SeatoSky Intergroup offered a *Speakers Marathon on June 6, 2020*. Speakers from our IG area, from Oregon and from Iowa answered our request that they come and speak, online.

In the last weekend of May, a member group offered a *weekend of speakers* (similar to a round-up).

In December, another member group held its *Holiday Speaker Event*. This is an annual event.

All events were well attended and appreciated. And we are thankful to the many servants it takes to put on such events.

Other services our Intergroup offers:

This past year of Jun 2019-Jun 2020 saw the following services delivered to member groups and to individuals:

1. Our monthly meeting of IG that is available to any IG Rep or visitor who might have questions about how to use program in decision making. This year saw us rely more and more on the wisdom in the Traditions. We saw less ‘discussion’ and less ego-filled efforts to help.
2. A bi-monthly Member Meeting Directory (paper and online).
3. A bi-monthly Newsletter until we had to suspend this for some months.
4. Our literature service is ongoing, though slowed because of the pandemic This saves members money since we bulk order from OA.org.
5. A telephone listing that helps interested people learn a bit more about OA. A committee responds to these phone messages.

6. Marathons & Retreats. A system of bi-monthly events is being planned-special topics in recovery.
7. We offer member groups an easy way to donate to OA beyond IG. Groups let us know how they wish they 7th Tradition distributed and IG's Treasurer does this.

The following services were not delivered due to persons not standing forward to serve in 2019-2020:

1. Secretary -although we had Interim Secretaries, some work got set aside
2. PIPO vacant all year
3. 12-Step Within work vacant all year
4. Vice Chair vacant all year
5. Archives vacant all year

I think we had much praying about these position service this year but realized that we could do only what we could do. And we practiced letting go of that which we had no control over. I pray that HP will show us the way forward. I am sure my other IG colleagues did the same. I am hopeful, in HP's time, this will change.

Has your Intergroup hosted a Region One Outreach or Intergroup Renewal workshop? Please tell us about your experience and outcomes. We were asked to co-host a Region 1 event but declined because our efforts needed to be put on the elected positions we did fill last year. Now several month later, I am hopeful that member groups are feeling more like carrying the message of service. We are having members indicate they want to serve on committees this year, communicating I think, the desire to serve and the hope they, too, hold.

What we are doing to make OA known in our community: ZOOM, unintentionally, has proved to be a PIPO event. We are providing 17 times per week, week after week, where visitors and newcomers can come to a meeting and learn about OA. Members made this happen. Very recently, members are thinking about (and bringing considerations to the board) for an ongoing hybrid presence.

What we're doing to strengthen our meetings and help our members recover: Using the Traditions at IG as the main method of decision making. In a variety of ways, we are replacing Roberts Rules when consensus and enquiry are what is asked about. We are using the language of OA to replace 'decision making' and 'voting' with consensus seeking at ordinary monthly meetings. When a Rep asks for guidance on an issue, we turn to the Traditions and ask all to suggest 1 Tradition that might be of help to that rep and his/her meeting.

I hope we are being more explicit about the 2 pathways for recovery within OA, valuing both and suggesting both work.

Since members tell us that they are more interested in learning more about Intergroup and volunteering more, we may be doing HP's footwork to build fellowship.

We encourage members to give service by:

1. Helping members know that IG has supportive processes in place if/when an elected position holder may have a "slip" or relapse. Since the sponsor-sponsee relationship is the primary tool for help, we are careful not to replace this. We simply ask for honesty and follow-up, once abstinence has returned. We have defined Interim Positions that allow a member to continue in service with the support of the fellowship.
2. Having more committee work possible, as our various elected positions again have servants. This year ('20-'21) we have invited people to consider volunteering on committees and members have themselves suggested new work they would like to be involved with.
3. We are staying open to possibilities.
4. Our online presence is leading us to many possibilities for outreach, for education and for 12 Step work within.

Tips and ideas we'd like to share with other Intergroups:

Openness to new digital ways of outreach

Ad Hoc committees that respond to new ideas

We'd like to hear ideas from other Intergroups about: hybrid meetings.

Submitted by: Lynne M., SeaToSky Intergroup Chair

Date of Report: 25 Jul 2020