

REPORT FROM PARIS INTERGROUP

During the year, we consolidated our two Sunday meetings into one. This required (and received) approval by Group Conscience of both meetings. As a result, we now have four meetings a week.

Our Intergroup is formally registered with the French Government, enabling us to purchase insurance, which is required by every landlord. This is our major annual expense, about 130 euros, covering all meetings at a single location. We have one official Intergroup meeting a year, the last Saturday in April, where we elect two officers: a president and a treasurer. We have just revised our bylaws to make the treasurer a six-month term, meaning we will have to have two official meetings a year, one in April and one in October. But in fact, we have unofficial monthly meetings during the Saturday business meeting, so Intergroup functions well.

We continue to have an electronic discussion group via a telephone app, moderated by one member. This group receives a daily meditation from an SCA member in Spain (a loner), as well as a second meditation from a member in Paris. We also offer each other support and use the group for routine alerts (such as when there is a problem opening the room). Most but not all of our members have joined the group, and we do not consider it to be a "meeting" as such.

Sadly, meeting attendance is down. Our Paris fellowship is very small, and our meetings average perhaps four to six people. At the end of 2018, however, the average was six to eight. So we have essentially lost two people per meeting. This has a big effect in a small fellowship.

We have a positive balance in our Prudent Reserve, averaging around 150 euros. This is considerably below our target of 300 euros, but at least it is not negative, as it has been at times in the past. However, we received some bad news from the landlord where we hold all four meetings: in our lease renewal, received in December, they raised the rent (without telling us). The Sunday meeting is particularly vulnerable, normally getting about three people, and the rent doubled to 10 euros a week from 5. Other meetings had smaller increases, but the overall total went from 46 euros a week to 55. At that rate, our prudent reserve will disappear within three months.

We are dealing with this on two fronts. First, we plan to meet with the landlord to explain our situation. We might need to ask the Sunday meeting to close if it is a drain on the Prudent Reserve. Other possibilities including closing the Tuesday meeting in the hopes that the Sunday meeting will grow. We have also discussed having at least one meeting aimed at French speakers.

The second effort is outreach. We have printed stickers with current contact/meeting information to attach to the Four Fold, and we have done the same with the French Four Fold (which, by the way, is still awaiting official ISO approval). We have begun to distribute these at places in Paris that have 12-Step meetings in English, as well as some hospitals and institutions. We have discussed placing public service ads on dating apps but have decided not to act on this at this time.