

NJIOA Minutes March 13, 2025

Chair: Jeff A

Vice-Chair: Susan S

Treasurer: Ilene W

The meeting was called to order by Jeff A who introduced himself as the new intergroup chairperson. He expressed special thanks to the committee responsible for the March 1st Winter Retreat for putting on a great event: Alison, Susan, Ilene, Mary Ann and Steve for his technical support.

OA Responsibility Pledge: Jeff
12 Steps: Renee M
Unity with Diversity Policy: Gail

Serenity Prayer: All
12 Traditions: Barbara R

Introduction: Roll Call:

Agnes, Sunday pm, Montclair
Barbara R, Tues/Thurs 7am Montclair virtual Step
Fran, Winter Retreat co-captain/finances
Gail, Corresponding Secretary, Thurs Relapse meeting
Ilene W, Treasurer
Jeff A, Chair, virtual Sun am, West Orange
Joyce S, Public Information, Region 7 rep
Judy L, Events chair, Zoom committee
Karen, Sat am, New Providence
Loraine, Recording Secretary, Region 7 rep
Marcy, Tuesday am Wayne meeting, World Service
Mark H, Saturday beginners, Cedar Knolls, Hot Line
Mary Ann, Oasis co-editor, virtual Wed night, Saddle Brook
Mary Jean, Fri virtual 7pm & Sat virtual 8:30pm
Polly, Sponsorship coordinator
Renee, Sat am, virtual Step, Montclair
Roz, Wed am HOW meeting virtual
Steven S, Website chair, Zoom committee
Susan S, Vice-Chair, Scholarship Literature coordinator
Terry P, Public Information chair

Approval of February 13, 2025 Minutes:

Motion to accept: Gail Second: Roz
Approved by show of hands.

Standing Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: Using a screen shot of the February treasury report, Ilene pointed out the additional column listing contributions from individual meetings. She also noted that the PayPal figures on the January and February reports include donations from the Winter Retreat.

Oasis: Mary Ann reported the Oasis will be issued 3 times a year and may be reduced to 4 or 5 pages. The next issue will be Spring/Summer and the topic is The Doctor's Opinion; articles or stories can be written and easily submitted on the website and are needed by May 1st.

Susan stated Gail will be printing copies of the Oasis and mailing them out to the in-person meetings. The proposed shorter version will be compatible with black and white printing. She suggested members could print and distribute copies to medical and dental offices.

Public Information: Terry P expressed gratitude for the 10 volunteers who stepped up in response to a request for help on the PI committee. Terry mentioned a number of plans under consideration: creating a public information Facebook page using World Service guidelines for public media; working with four intergroups to see if an OA highway billboard would be possible; exploring the feasibility of creating a list of crisis counselors in colleges and high schools in order to send them OA information. Terry reported that OA has a ¼ page ad in the March 30 convention journal of the National Association of Social Workers.

12-Step Within: There is no chair for this committee. Jeff asked anyone willing to step into this position to please contact Susan S or himself. Help is available for anyone interested in providing this important service. This committee helps those people already in the program who are having trouble.

Literature Scholarship: Susan reported four books were sent out and there are also some 12-Step workbooks available.

Sponsorship: Polly reported there were 10 contacts from members looking for sponsors: 3 in January, 5 in February and 2 so far in March. Only 1 contact has been made from a member willing to sponsor.

Website: Steven reported a lot of the main issues with the website have been resolved and things are moving in the right direction. He noted: the speed is better; the network provider will be upgrading which will bring more improvement; some recordings from the Winter Retreat are already up online; the 2024 Treasurer's reports are up; and there is a new scene and a picture of the Oasis on the website main screen.

Zoom: Judy reported that this committee could use more members. Currently there are four members who handle the Zoom responsibilities for all NJIOA events and intergroup meetings. Volunteers are needed; they will be provided with instruction and support.

World Service: Marcy reported the in-person World Service Convention will take place in Orlando, FL, August 21-23, the theme is *Walking in the Sunlight*. There is a new resource on the oa.org website, One-on-One Professional Outreach: Demonstration Video and Talking Points. Also available is the report, The Survey of 3,400 OA Members: How is OA Recovering?

Region 7: Several members reported that the in-person 2025 Region 7 Convention had been cancelled due to lack of leadership for the event. If volunteers come forward, it might be rescheduled as a virtual event.

Winter Retreat: Susan reported it was a great success, the speakers were wonderful and 75 members volunteered to help with the event. She expressed specific thanks for the members of the committee for their skills and expert help.

Fran provided some of the registration/financial information: 161 attended, 70% registered two weeks before, 22 joined the day of the retreat; 28 states and 4 countries were represented; income from the event is around \$2,000 which will be adjusted when the PayPal fees and actual debit card payments are known, the final figure is expected to be close to the income received when the retreat was live,.

Events: Judy reported that events have been planned through the end of the year with something in each month. The committee welcomes suggestions from members for additional events.

Judy pitched for more North Jersey members attending the workshops. She noted that most attendees at our workshops are from other areas or countries; our attendance is very small. It is good news that the message of recovery is being spread but members of our intergroup are invited, encouraged to attend. Judy stated that the speakers for the workshops are all wonderful and spending a couple of hours to hear their messages of experience, strength and hope is always very uplifting. She suggested members check the website for "Save the Date" notices and shortly afterwards, the flyer for each event.

2025 Workshop Plans: Sponsorship in August, Traditions in September, Bill & Bob; Learn From Their Stories in October, I.D.E.A. in November, and 12-Step Within in December.

April 26: A virtual Zoom security workshop to make meetings safer.

May 18: A virtual Chronic Illness & Recovery workshop, with speakers with chronic illnesses sharing their recovery journeys.

June 22: A virtual Male Perspectives in Recovery workshop with members of the Wednesday night men's meeting sharing their experiences.

Old Business

Open Positions: Jeff asked if anyone had any interest in the following open positions to please contact him or Susan:

12-Step Within chair, Region 7 Rep, World Service Rep, Publicity.

Judy reminded the group that Events needs members, too.

Buddies List: Jeff reminded those on the Buddies list to call their contact person at meetings which do not have representatives to inform them what's going at NJIOA.

The meeting ended with the OA Promise.

Motion to Close: Roz Second: Mary Ann

Respectfully submitted,
Loraine B