

NJIOA Meeting
December 11, 2025

Chair: Jeff A.

Vice-Chair: Susan S

Treasurer: Ilene W

Serenity Prayer: All

12 Steps: Mark

Concept of the Month: Mary Ann

OA Responsibility Pledge: Jeff

12 Traditions: Mary Jeanne

Unity with Diversity Policy: Barbara

Introduction: Roll Call:

Barbara R, Monday am, Lifeline meeting

Edward, Thurs pm, Gratitude meeting

Gail, Corresponding Secretary, Thurs Relapse meeting, Winter Retreat committee

Jeff A, Chair, Sun am, West Orange meeting

Jennie, Zoom chair, Winter Retreat committee

Judy L, Event chair, Zoom committee, Winter Retreat committee

June, Sunday am, There's a Solution virtual BB meeting

Lorraine, Recording Secretary, Region 7 Rep

Mary Jeanne, Sat 11 am, New Providence meeting

Maryjean E, Fri 7pm and Sat 8:30 pm virtual meetings

Mark H, Saturday 10:30am, Cedar Knolls beginners meeting, Hotline

Mary Ann, Oasis co-editor

Pinney, Tues 7pm, Montclair meeting

Steven S, Wed 8pm Men's meeting, website committee

Susan, Website chair

Terry P, Public Information chair

ToniAnn, Parliamentarian

November Minutes: Mark H. noted a change to be made to the November 13, 2025 minutes. The statement that using the Friends and Family option when choosing PayPal in order to eliminate the fee was corrected at the end of the meeting. There is no way to avoid payment of the PayPal fees.

Motion to accept the change: Susan Second: Gail Minutes approved as amended

Treasurer: Jeff gave the report in Ilene's absence. The treasurer's report was emailed to members prior to this meeting for review. July to November income and expenses were in line with the projections. NJIOA donations to Region 7 and World Service were made as scheduled.

Oasis: Mary Ann said the next edition will be published in mid-January; the topic is Living in the 12 Steps. Three submittals have been received with a promise of four more. 200-300 word articles can be written and submitted on the website.

Jeff expressed gratitude that hard copies of the Oasis are available at in-person meetings.

Public Information: Terry P noted that this is her last meeting as the chair of the committee. Schedules for 2026 professional conferences are not yet available. Terry hopes the current statewide coalition with other OA public information groups will continue. If the intergroup would be interested in having its own static billboard instead of 6-8 seconds on a digital board, Jeff has been sent the contact information for the Lamar Advertising agency. The price structure has changed but the cost could be \$2,000.

Phone Line: Mark reported there were no activity.

Website: Susan reported the website is doing well making a lot of information on activities and podcasts easy to access. Changes in any meeting information should be sent to her at website@njioa.org; they will be made within 2 or 3 days. Some current metrics: there were 18 site hits in the last 30 minutes, the intergroup tonight had 12 views, today's meetings had 3 views and virtual meetings had 4 views.

Mary Ann reported the February 28 Winter Retreat flyer is up on the njioa.org website and the live link is ready to go. Flyers were emailed to those on the Oasis mailing list as well as to those who attended the 2025 retreat.

Problem: MaryAnn reported recently there were many requests for inclusion on the Oasis mailing list with bogus email addresses and article submissions with text that was gibberish. Two changes were made to address the problems.

Mailing list: when a request is received, an email will be sent to that person stating, to ensure your privacy and security please confirm you made a request to join the Oasis mailing list by responding "yes" to this email. When that validation is received, the person's email address will be added to the Oasis list.

Oasis articles: The person submitting an article will have to check the new box on the page. The message is, by checking this box you acknowledge and approve of NJIOA publishing your submission in its Oasis newsletter; publication is not guaranteed but all submissions are given serious consideration.

Zoom: Jennie reported the 12th Step Within event scheduled for tomorrow night will be covered; Steven will be hosting. If there is a committee that needs to schedule a virtual meeting or event, please contact her to make arrangements, website@njioa.org .

Problem: A sponsee reported going to two virtual meetings and no one else was there. Jeff said he would follow-up on that.

World Service: MaryJean E reported there will be an in-person conference in Albuquerque in March during which representatives will vote on changing by-laws. The conference is open to all. End-of-year donations to World Service can be made in the name of a group or an individual. There are new "Inside OA" podcasts available on the oa.org website. Secular members are being asked help create a new daily reader for agnostics and atheists, the deadline for submissions is January 15 and details are available on the oa.org website..

Events: Judy reported that a search is on for some podcasts which should be on the website but are not; also, two of the three podcasts from I.D.E.A. Day are up, the third will be up shortly.

Friday, 11/12/2025: Practicing the Principles; Extending Our Hearts and Hands to our Fellows, a 12-Step Within virtual workshop, 3 speakers, 7:30 – 9:00 pm .

OA Events in Other Areas: Saturday, 1/17/2026: Celebrating the Gifts of Recovery, OA Birthday Celebration, in-person event, Cornwall, NY, 9:30 am–3:30 pm, Register by 1/4/2026

Saturday, 1/31/2026: Special Event, Newcomers & Returnees, in-person workshop 9:30 am–12:30 pm; Paramus, NJ

Saturday, 2/28/2026: NJIOA Winter Retreat, virtual program from 9:00 am - 4:00pm. There are 2 tracks of speakers sharing on stories in the Big Book; donation levels are smaller this year and scholarships are available; there are many opportunities for service.

Old Business:

Election of nominated officers. Meeting was turned over to ToniAnn, Parliamentarian, who went over the qualifications, terms of office, attendance requirements and method of election using a screenshot of the By-Laws. It was noted that the nominee for Vice-Chair has not yet met the meeting attendance requirement, his position will be Acting Vice-Chair. A quorum is present for a valid election.

Electronic poll was used for the elections, all nominated officers were elected unanimously:

Chair, Jeff

Corresponding Secretary, Gail

Recording Secretary, Loraine

Acting Vice-Chair, Ed A (Vice-Chair after 6 meeting attendance requirement is met)

Ilene, Treasurer, was not present, that election will take place next month.

Nominations: Elections will be held in January. Nominations unanimously approved:

Public Information, Maryjean E; nominated by ToniAnn, seconded by Mark

Region7 Rep, Mark; nominated by Gail, seconded by Susan

Oasis Editor, Mary Ann; nominated by ToniAnn, seconded by Mary Jeanne

Website, Susan; nominated by ToniAnn, seconded by Mary Ann

Zoom, Jennie: nominated by ToniAnn, seconded by Steve

Nominations for unfilled positions tabled to January meeting: World Service Rep, One Region 7 Rep, Chairs of 12th Step Within and Events committees. Members were asked to talk about the positions that are unfilled, encouraging meeting members to review the by-laws on the website for descriptions.

Expanded Activities for 2026: Jeff reported on the zoom meeting held to brainstorm ideas for promoting small social activities which would expand fellowship, connections and support.

- For in-person meetings: individuals or meetings planning small get-togethers which could include meeting before or going out after the meetings. It could be a stop for coffee or a meal, a walk, a movie/bingo/bowling night. Before Covid, one meeting had a birthday party at a diner every month for those celebrating their special day.
- Zoom meeting members can be from different parts of the state, country or world but time could be regularly set aside before or after the meetings for virtual socializing. And it might be possible to arrange in-person get-togethers for those members who do not live too far apart. Maybe a zoom meeting outside of the meeting just for socializing.
- Both in-person and zoom meetings could sponsor an event, expanding their connections through working on a project together.
- Attracting Newcomers: meetings without a newcomer format make understanding or relating to our program of recovery difficult. Solution: start more newcomer meetings?

Important Announcement: Inadvertently when adding a new meeting, the Monday night HOW meeting was erased. The error was corrected and the meeting restored but the meeting link was not; there is now a new link for this meeting.

The meeting was closed with the OA Promise.

Motion to close: Mary Ann Seconded: Mark

Next meeting: January 8, 2026; 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine B. Recording Secretary