

**NJIOA Minutes**  
**February 12, 2025**

Chair: Jeff A

Vice-Chair: Ed A.

Treasurer: Ilene W

Jeff A. opened the meeting.

OA Responsibility Pledge: Jeff

12 Steps: Gail

12 Traditions: Mary Ann

Concept of the Month: Barbara

Unity with Diversity Policy: Fran

**Introduction: Roll Call:**

Agnes, Sunday pm Montclair meeting

Barbara, Mon am Lifeline meeting

Fran, Co-treasurer Winter Retreat, Fri pm HOW meeting

Gail, Corresponding Secretary, Thurs Relapse meeting

Greg, Wed pm Men's meeting

Ilene W, Treasurer

Jeff A, Chair, Sun am West Orange meeting

Judy L, Zoom committee

Lorraine, Recording Secretary, Region 7 rep

Mary Jeanne, Sat am New Providence meeting

Maryjean, Fri & Sat pm virtual meetings

Mark H, Sat am Cedar Knolls beginner's meeting, Region 7 rep

Mary Ann, Oasis co-editor, co-treasurer Winter Retreat, Wed Big Book meeting

Pinney, Tues pm Montclair meeting

Rena, Sponsorship Coordinator, Sat am Montclair in-person meeting

Simcha, Sun am Big Book meeting

Steven S, Zoom committee

Susan S, Website chair

Terry P, Public Information committee

ToniAnn, Parliamentarian, Region 7 rep

Approval of the January 8, 2026 minutes:

Motion to approve: Mark    Second: ToniAnn    Approved with 5 abstentions

**Committee Reports**

**Treasury:** Ilene reported for January: income \$837.02, expenses \$567.91, ending balance of \$32,060.45. There were a lot of meeting donations. Expenses included books purchased for sale at the January 31<sup>st</sup> newcomer's workshop. At the end of 8 months, expenses are about 45% and income 55% of budget and with four months to go before year-end, expenditures are good and the income budgeted should be met.

**Oasis:** The latest edition is on the website, the theme is Life in the 12 Steps. Mary Ann used a 50%-off coupon which allowed the issue to be printed in color. Copies were emailed to 126 members and mailed to the 16 in-person meetings. The next edition is the Spring/Summer issue which should be out by May 21, the theme is Friendship and Fellowship in Program. Mary Ann reminded members that the articles do not have to be long, they are easily submitted on the website and the deadline is May 15. Jeff commented that contributors do not have to worry about misspelled words or grammatical errors as Mary Ann and her staff will catch and correct them.

**Public Information:** Jeff reported the committee met and there is need for a chairperson and more members. NJIOA will be present at an OA information table at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) conference being held in Atlantic City on April 26-27. More than 1,000 social workers and mental health workers are expected to attend, many who have never heard of the OA program. The table is manned by members from the three NJ intergroups; a shift is 4 hours and involves talking to people who stop for information.

There was a discussion about sending letters and flyers to cardiologists in Northern New Jersey.

**Comment:** Professionals are not happy receiving a pile of material; something short and informative would more likely be read.

**Suggestions:**

Use pamphlets, flyers, giveaways available on the World Service website; financial support is available from Region 7

Mail the NJIOA flyer of the tree with leaves showing all the services OA provides, a colorful visual  
Leave a business card with OA information on both sides and/or a QR Code in professional offices

**Sponsor Coordinator:** Rena spoke with two people; two members reached out to one of the newcomers who did find a sponsor; five emails to the coordinator ended up in a spam folder for several weeks; Rena has contacted almost all of them. The folder will be checked for any OA emails that are misdirected.

**Website:** Susan noted the website homepage looks sensational with a winter scene, the new Oasis and Winter Retreat flyer. A visitor can read the Oasis, register for the retreat and listen to podcasts.

**Zoom:** Steven reported that he, Jennie and Judy are preparing for the Winter Retreat on February 28<sup>th</sup>. He noted that more “Zoomers” were needed mentioning a need for someone for lunch period 2.

**Literature Scholarship:** Susan sent out two Big Books last month. She will have receive the books that were not sold at the January newcomer’s workshop. Susan explained that the books—Alcoholics Anonymous and the OA Step Book—are unabridged paperback editions and are offered free not only to newcomers but to oldtimers who need a replacement.

**Suggestion:** Publicize the literature scholarship at the Winter Retreat and have a surprise giveaway of books—maybe to the person farthest away, or by pulling phone numbers, etc.

**World Service:** Maryjean mentioned there was a second call for stories for the OA Secular Daily Reader, a publication for members who are atheists, agnostics or those who do not identify with God as a higher power; stories are due by June 1. The annual World Service Business Conference will be in-person in Albuquerque, NM, April 20-25. Registration is open to everyone on oa.org. A new book became available in January, Sponsorship in OA, and can be ordered as a paperback, for Kindle or for the Nook.

**Region 7:** A virtual Assembly will be held on March 14 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm; pre-assembly materials will be emailed to region delegates by the end of this month. A hybrid Region 7 Assembly will be held October 2-4 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Winchester, VA. The annual Region 7 Convention will be in person and held October 23 - 25 at the Bethesda Hotel, Bethesda, MD; the theme is: I Put My Hand In Yours; Welcome Home!.

A virtual convention planning meeting was held and the committees set up were: hospitality, speakers, registration, marketing, website, and program. There are two open positions: convention chair and entertainment committee chair. Volunteers from all intergroups are invited to join a committee.

## Events

**February 28: NJIOA virtual Winter Retreat,** 9:00 am–4:00 pm; registration is still open; 14 speakers relating their experiences and connection to stories in the Big Book. Register online, a confirmation will come in an email from register@njioa. If one is not received, then the registration did not go through. As of today 80 have registered, including speakers and volunteers; 5 people received scholarships and all offered to do service.

**March 4, Tour of Stepping Stones**, Bill and Lois Wilson's home in Katonah, New York, limited to 25 people.

**March 21, BYOLunch & Sing-A-Long**, 12:00 pm–2:00 pm, Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

**April 23, Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossoms**, guided tour, 11:00 am-12:30 pm, limited to 25 people.

**Comments:**

Fran reported that the Friday night HOW meeting needs service. There were 30 people at the newcomer's workshop but only 3 people were present at the Friday meeting. We will try to make some changes but in the meantime we wanted to get the word out that the meeting needs service.

Mark stated that when someone calls the Hotline they could be looking for a password to attend a meeting. If meeting passwords were sent to [njioa.hotline@gmail.com](mailto:njioa.hotline@gmail.com), Mark will pass it on to the hotline caller.

**Suggestions:**

People who remember live meetings should start bringing them back, a live event need not be a live meeting. Introduce things we used to do—like hang out.

We haven't had a Back to Basics program for a long time; could one be scheduled?

Meeting closed with the OA Promise.

Motion to close: Fran    Second: Mary Ann

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

Loraine B, Recording Secretary