

NJIOA Minutes
May 14, 2026

Chair: Jeff A

Vice-Chair: Mark

Treasurer: Ilene W

OA Responsibility Pledge: Jeff
12 Traditions: Barbara
Unity with Diversity Policy: Gail

12 Steps: Susan
Concept of the Month: Kristy

Introduction: Roll Call:

Barbara R, Mon am, Lifeline meeting
Fran, Fri pm Hackensack HOW meeting
Gail, Corresponding Secretary, Thurs Relapse meeting
Jeff A, Chair, Sun am West Orange BB meeting
Jennie, Visitor
Judy L, Zoom committee
Kristy, Zoom committee
Loraine, Recording Secretary, Region 7 rep
Mary Jeanne C, Sat am New Providence BB meeting
Maryjean E, Fri pm & Sat pm virtual meetings
Mark H, Cedar Knolls Beginners' meeting, Hot Line
Mary Ann, Oasis co-editor, Wed pm Saddle Brook meeting
Rena, Sponsorship Coordinator, Sat am Montclair in-person meeting
Simcha, Sun am Mountainside Hospital meeting
Susan R, Sat am Ridgewood meeting
Susan S., Scholarship/literature coordinator, Website Chair
Terry P, Public Information committee

Minutes: There were no comments/ questions on the April 9, 2026 minutes.

Motion to accept: Fran

Second: Mark

Minutes accepted

Treasury: Jeff reported the closing bank balance for April was \$27,000 showing equal income and expenses through the year. He expects there will be \$26,000 on hand at year's end. The fiscal year begins July 1.

Oasis: Mary Ann reported there have been 11 to 12 submittals to date for the current issue, Fellowship and Friendship In Program. When published later this month, electronic copies will be emailed to all who have requested them. A reminder will be included in the Oasis to ask members sending a contribution to intergroup to please state if it is a personal donation or to identify the meeting making the donation. The proposed budgetary needs for the Oasis for 2027 will be prepared and emailed to Ilene, the Treasurer.

Public Information: Acting chair, Jeff, reported that the intergroup works with Central and South Jersey intergroups to provide materials and representatives at Social Worker and Mental Health Association conferences. May 28 will be the next conference when OA will have a table with representatives and program literature for distribution at the NJ Mental Health Association conference being held in Asbury Park. Volunteers to be present at the OA information table are always welcome. Anyone interested and available for the May 28th conference are asked to contact Jeff.

Sponsorship Coordinator: Rena reported there are 5 or 6 sponsors available but she is hoping to get some men who would be willing and available to sponsor. The form to register as an available sponsor is on the njioa.org website.

Website: Susan reported the website is doing well and is up-to-date with the new meetings. Last week there were 171 hits on the website, 108 visitors looked at more than one page. Susan suggested members mention at meetings that we have a website with flyers, podcasts and meeting lists and recommend people check it out. A problem with the link on the website to the intergroup meeting was mentioned. The number was correct but the link was to the South Jersey meeting not North Jersey. Susan sent Patrick an email asking that this problem be corrected.

Zoom: Judy welcomed a new member to the committee, Kristy, and mentioned there is another recruit which will make the committee a team of three. Judy stated that there is room for more members. Contact Judy if you would like to join.

Scholarships: Susan reported there were no requests for books this month. She suggested a larger article in the Oasis about the availability of free books would be helpful. In answer to a question, Susan said the books were available free of charge to individual members; established or new in-person meetings need to order books and cover the cost out of their treasury or start-up fund.

World Service: Maryjean E reported there were new audio books available on the oa.org website as well as literature available through Amazon. The new updated World Service website was launched on April 17 that makes it easier to look up meetings and events and order documents.

Request: Jeff asked if Maryjean would find out if and how the World Service public service announcement could be shared with intergroups. It is a good, generic PSA. If the ad would be available we'd need to know the cost.

Region 7: Loraine reported the news is the Region 7 2026 Convention in Bethesda, Md, October 23-25. The weekend is promoted as a time of recovery, fellowship, connection and joy. The theme is: I Put My Hand In Yours; Welcome Home! There is financial assistance available and registration is open on the oaregion7.org website. For anyone interested in giving service, there are many opportunities on various committees: On-Site Logistics, Registration, Marketing, Intergroup Outreach, Hospitality, Programming and Entertainment.

Communications: Susan called every meeting without intergroup registration to bring the contact person up to date on the plans and events. It was discouraging to attend some of those meetings and not hear any of the announcements she had asked to be shared. She will continue to provide NJIOA information in calls to the meeting contacts.

Events: Jeff reported on a past event, an in-person tour of Branch Brook Park on April 23 conducted by two Branch Brook Park Alliance guides. The walking tour also included a side trip inside the Basilica of the Sacred Heart which is nearby. After a couple of hours walking, some who were on the tour went to the Nevada Diner for lunch.

Saturday, June 20, in-person workshop on Steps One, Two and Three at the Dorothy B. Kraft Center in Paramus NJ. Flyer will be available shortly.

Monday, July 20, in-person OA Fellowship Lunch at the Nevada Diner in Bloomfield, NJ. Depending on the weather, there is outdoor seating that can accommodate 30-40 people. Please text Jeff 201 341-6287 to reserve a spot. The flyer is on the njioa.org website.

Old Business: Jeff reported information is being gathered to see if an in-person Star Lake Retreat on January 22-24 is possible. Judy has been in touch with the facility and has been told that 60 is the minimum number of people that must attend; our group would be the only one at the facility for that weekend. To be determined: room prices, availability of abstinent meals, MAs and portions, and

accommodating members' special needs. It is assumed the food costs could be a big issue. A feasibility study will be done by the Star Lake committee which is Jeff, Judy and Fran.

MaryJeanne C reported she obtained a copy of the Plain Language Big Book; it is a soft cover, 8-1/2x11 book. The cost is \$20.00 with tax and shipping in NJ. It is the Big Book in simple language which might be helpful for new people or those who have trouble with the language used in the Big Book editions.

New Business:

- Jeff announced that Ed A resigned as Vice-Chair for personal reasons. Mark H was asked to fill that position. Mark accepted the nomination.
 - A vote on the nomination of Mark H to Vice-Chair was conducted via a show of hands.
 - Nomination was approved with 4 abstentions.
- The finance committee, which includes Jeff, Mark and three former treasurers will be preparing a draft budget for fiscal year 2027. It will be forwarded to the intergroup members for review before the next meeting.
- Mary Jeanne C reported that a new newcomer meeting will begin on Saturday, June 20 at 10:00 am in New Providence meeting. It will be an in-person, 45 minute meeting. It is hoped the newcomers will stay for the Big Book meeting that follows at 11:00 am.

The meeting closed with the OA Promise.

Motion to close: Mary Ann Second: Fran

Next meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026; 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Loraine B, Recording Secretary