

**NJIOA Minutes
August 13, 2026**

Chair: Jeff A

Vice-Chair: Mark H

Treasurer: Ilene W

Notes:

Due to technical problems accessing the meeting, the recording secretary was not present for the beginning of the meeting and began taking the minutes with the roll call.

In the absence of Jeff A, Chair, Vice-Chair, Mark H, chaired the meeting.

Introduction: Roll Call:

Agnes, Sunday pm, Montclair

Barbara R, Mon am Lifeline meeting

Ethan B, Sun am Mountainside Hospital meeting

Fran, virtual Hackensack HOW meeting

Grace, Wed pm in-person Saddle Brook HOW meeting

Ilene, Treasurer

Judy L, Zoom chair

Lorraine, Recording Secretary, Region 7 rep

Maryjean E, Fri 7pm & Sat 8:30 pm meetings

Mark H, Vice-Chair, Sat 10:30 am Cedar Knolls meeting, hot line

Mary Ann, Oasis co-editor, Wed pm virtual BB meeting

Pinney, Tues 7pm Montclair meeting

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

Susan R, Sat am Ridgewood meeting

Susan S, Website chair, Scholarship/literature coordinator

Terry P, PI outreach committee

Approval – July 9, 2026 Minutes:

Motion to Accept: Fran

Second: Judy

Approved with 5 abstentions

Committee Reports:

Treasury: Ilene stated there were many donations, one of intergroup's higher income months. She expressed thanks to the meetings who forwarded donations.

Oasis: Mary Ann stated the next issue will be published in early October, the topic is: Who Was Your Ebbie? -- who actually brought you into OA or who told you about the program or maybe went to a meeting with you? Articles can be submitted via the website or in an email to Oasis@njioa.org; it would be appreciated if they could be sent by September 1st. There will be an effort to reduce costs by cutting down on the number of pages.

Public Information: The report was given by both Mark and Terry. October 16 is the NJ Mental Health Association annual convention in Asbury Park; NJIOA is working with South Jersey intergroup by manning an information table. A volunteer is needed from NJIOA, all expenses are paid—mileage, tolls. Contact Terry P if you are willing to volunteer, publicinfo@njioa.com. It was a very successful event last year, over 100 people came to the table on the first day. It is a wonderful way to reach many professionals and their clients.

Phone Line: Mark received a call from someone trying to get into a meeting. The contact person was not available to provide the password. Mark redirected him to a website where he could find a meeting right away. It would be good to have a list of the passwords not provided on the website meeting lists.

Sponsorship Coordinator: Rena reported 3 people reached out to request a sponsor and she is in the process of helping them. She noted that there is always a need for more sponsors. Anyone interested could call or text her.

Website: Susan S reported there are new items on the website. Members were reminded to text Susan with information on any new meeting as that is the only way it will appear on the website. Fun facts: this week there were 133 active users, 80 of them were new to OA; today 40 people were searching for meetings. During the week 112 contacted the website from the USA and other countries, including 5 from China. Susan provided an update on the ongoing efforts to find and post missing podcasts. Unfortunately the efforts were not successful but there are many very good podcasts that are available on the website.

Zoom: Judy said tonight's access problem was a zoom link problem not a website issue. Some members were able to access the meeting through the website link and others through the email link. Judy announced that Mary Jeanne C volunteered to be the third member on the Zoom committee.

Literature/Scholarship: Susan reported sending three OA 12&12 paperback books to members requesting them. An order has been placed for 6 more of the books. Susan asked members to remind those at their meetings if they need a paperback Big Book or OA 12&12 they should contact Susan and she will send it out, probably the next day.

World Service: Maryjean E reported on two items of interest: the plain language AA Big Book is now for sale on the oa.org website and an audio book is available for young people recovering in OA.

Region7: Loraine reported on the Region 7 convention being held October 23-25 in Bethesda, MD; it is a weekend of options. There are 18 workshops, 2 keynote speakers, entertainment, morning meditations as well as opportunities to meet and visit with other compulsive overeaters. The theme is *I Put My Hand In Yours; Welcome Home!* Registration is open on the oaregion7.org website and there is a reduced room rate at the Bethesdan Hotel for those attending the convention.

Comment: Fran asked that members start communicating about the convention at meetings, especially in-person meetings. The convention she attended in Boston a number of years ago was amazing; it was a great experience. Maybe a live meeting could offer financial aid to someone from the meeting who would attend and return to share what they learned.

Communication with Member Groups: Barbara, a rep for the Monday meeting and a reporter for the Tuesday/Thursday and Saturday meetings, was asked to share on what she communicates at those meetings. She highlights what went on at the intergroup meeting during the following week's meetings. After that Barbara will pick something to talk about, presently it is the Region 7 convention, sometimes it's information from the website; she also posts current flyers in the chats.

Past Event: July 20, In-person lunch at the Nevada Diner was very well attended, at least 20 people were there, the weather cooperated and the group was able to eat outdoors. It was a good way to have an abstinent lunch with fellow OA members.

Future Events:

August 14: New in-person Friday meeting, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Dorothy B Kraft Center, Paramus. It is not a Step or Big Book meeting, it is an OA literature meeting with stories, the For Today daily reader and open sharing.

August 25: Hunterdon County employee health fair, 10:00 am-2:00 pm; OA will participate and have materials about the program available as handouts. Mark and another OA member will man the table.

September 5: Tour of Stepping Stones, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm; limited to 14 people so pre-registration is required. Stepping Stones is the home of Bill and Lois Wilson in Katonah, NY.

October 4: Top Picks for Newcomers workshop, the flyer is under production

October 23-25: Region 7 in-person Convention, Bethesda, MD. All information available on oaregion7.org

Old Business

NJIOA Business Cards: To be handed out at in-person meetings and events. The cards that are currently available will have to be checked to be sure the information is accurate. Mark will follow-up with Jeff about ordering a supply.

February 2027 Winter Retreat: Judy reported there will not be a Star Lake weekend retreat. There is no way to put a retreat together even if we had the money, the space or attendees in January or February 2027. A small meeting was held to discuss a 2027 retreat but no final decision has been made regarding an alternative to Star Lake. It will probably have to be a zoom version and if we do make that decision, we need to start preparing for it soon. Judy reported she is still working with the people at Star Lake; this is their busy season so they haven't been responding.

New Business

Firelight Meeting & a "FunRaiser": Grace asked for dates for two events that do not interfere with anything already scheduled. One is for the Firelight meeting and the other is for a "FunRaiser" hosted by the Wednesday night meeting. The "FunRaiser" could be scheduled after the holidays, maybe on a January or February weekend afternoon for 2 to 3 hours in the Kessler multipurpose room. Those attending will be getting together to share an activity, maybe painting, maybe crocheting. The craft hasn't been decided but it should be one that attracts the most people.

The meeting closed with the OA Promise

Motion to close the meeting: Mary Ann Seconded: Pinney

The next meeting: September 10, 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Loraine B, Recording Secretary