

**NJIOA Minutes
December 5, 2024**

Chair: Jon K

Vice-Chair: Susan S

Treasurer: ToniAnn A

Opening

Meeting called to order by Jon.

OA Responsibility Pledge: Jon

12 Steps: Marcy

Concept of the Month: Steven S

Serenity Prayer: All

12 Traditions: Barbara R

Unity with Diversity Policy: Michael

Introduction: Roll Call

Jon K, Chair

Susan S, Vice-Chair

Aggy, Sun AM Mountainside Hospital meeting

Andrea, Parliamentarian

Barbara R, Tues 7AM Montclair Step meeting

Gail, Corresponding Secretary, Thurs Relapse meeting

Ilene, Event Chair

Jennie, Visitor

Judy L, Zoom committee

June, Sun 9:00 PM, There is a Solution, BB meeting

Loraine, Region 7, recording secretary

Marcy, Tuesday AM, Wayne

Mark H, Sat AM, Cedar Knolls Newcomers meeting

Maryjean, Fri 7 PM, Sat 8:30 PM zoom meetings

Michael, Wed 8 PM, Saddle Brook Men's meeting

Steven S, Website Chair

Terry P, Public Information Chair

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Motion: Gail; Seconded: Aggy Minutes were approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Treasury Report: The report which was attached to the meeting notification email could not be opened. Jon stated we are in pretty good shape financially and ToniAnn will be making the 7th tradition donations to World Service and Region 7 before she steps down as Treasurer at the end of the month. He suggested that anyone with questions or concerns about the November report should contact ToniAnn.

Oasis: Susan reported the next edition, God and Me Perfect Together, will be out by January 1; it can be viewed and downloaded from the website. It is hoped the new condensed version will be available for delivery to the in-person meetings in March.

Public Information: Terry reported the committee will be meeting with the Central and South Jersey PI committees to discuss future joint events. She said our committee is

down two members and cannot fully function with just the two that remain. She asked for help in actively recruiting members saying it is not a lot of work but it is important work. Members meet once a month and spend a couple of hours at OA information tables set up at various medical and professional conferences, usually two people for two hours.

Scholarship: Susan reported that one Big Book and one OA Step Book were sent out this month. Anyone interested in stepping up to take over this responsibility was reminded that it is funded by a donation from the California intergroup. Susan gets the request and mails the book. The books are purchased by the Treasurer and all costs for mailing are reimbursed.

Website: Steven said he did have communication with Patrick. Three concerns were addressed: Steven has received the credentials to look at the analytics, the recordings that are pending were sent to him; and he is going through the emails and will send meeting changes to Patrick. In response to a concern about the problems encountered setting up PayPal for the winter retreat registrations, Steven said it takes a couple of days for approval but by tomorrow that will be resolved. A question was asked about the continued slowness of the website. Steve talked to Patrick about that and the site is more responsive but still does lag. The host has updated the software our website runs on so some of the slowness issue may have been resolved.

Zoom: Steve met with Judy and Jennie to go over changing the meeting to tonight and setting up the polls for the voting. There are some security items he would like to suggest, some are useful for individual meetings. He will write them up in a document and send them out. He recommended hosts update their Zoom accounts. He is available to help update the zoom client contact if help is needed.

Events: Ilene thanked Susan, Alison, Judy and event hosts for an amazing year of 13 well-attended events. There are two upcoming events:

Thursday, 12/12, 12th Step Within, Strengthen Your Recovery, zoom workshop

Saturday, March 1, The NJIOA Zoom Winter Retreat: Feeling Groovy

Vice Chair Comments: Per our by-laws, a Chairperson is required for the meeting to operate. At this time we do not have a candidate for that position. Susan stated if no one volunteers, the options are to merge with Central Jersey or to close. To allow time for a candidate to be found, Susan and ToniAnn have offered to act as Chair for the January and February meetings. If there is still no candidate, it will be up to the individual meetings to decide how they want to proceed without an intergroup. Funds in the treasury would be forwarded as 7th Tradition donations to World Service and Region 7.

Chair Comments: Jon thanked everyone for their dedication and help this year, for the commitment each month to be at this meeting and to give service on the Board. He stated he needed to step down from this position, that he will not be doing this for another year. He would love to see this intergroup continue because it provides important service to the fellowship.

Elections: It was affirmed that a quorum was present..

Appointed Position

Zoom Committee: Jennie was nominated by Steve; Seconded by Gail
Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Voting on individual nominations was held using an electronic poll.

Vice-Chair: Susan, approved

Recording Secretary: Loraine, approved

Corresponding Secretary: Gail, approved

Treasurer: Ilene, approved

Parliamentarian: [ToniAnn elected at the November meeting]

Events: Judy, approved

Oasis: Mary Ann, approved

Website: Steven, approved

Public Information: Terry, approved.

Open Positions: Chair, 12th Step Within Chair, & 4 Region 7 Reps

General Discussion – Email from the Chair [a copy is attached]

- A suggestion was made that the email or a shorter version be included in the Oasis.
- A suggestion for a monthly email go out to meeting secretaries listing open positions, reminding members there is a need for volunteers.

Meeting closed with the OA Promise

Motion to close: Steve; Seconded: Marcy

Respectfully submitted,
Loraine B

Attachment (1): Email, 12/5/2024, Chairperson NJIOA

Attachment: NJIOA Meeting Minutes, 12/5/2024

From: **Chairperson NJIOA** <chair@njioa.org>

Date: Thu, Dec 5, 2024 at 9:31 AM

Subject: State of Our Intergroup - PLEASE READ!

As we approach the end of the year for our Intergroup, I want you all to know that we are at a crossroads as to the future. As you may know, I am not continuing as Chair for 2025 and no one has stepped up to take over.

When I was asked to take on the role for 2024, no one else had stepped up at that time. It was important for me to accept the obligation as a way to give back for what OA had given me. Upping my service was a way to pay things forward. I had regained control of my life, not just with food but with everything else.

I want you all to remember what it was like when you first decided to try OA and go to your first meeting. Remember the unconditional acceptance of those in the room. The feeling of not being alone when it came to food. When you put your hands into another's hands. What it was like to go through the steps with your sponsor. Reciting Rosanne's promise. How you found and connected to your Higher Power.

As an Intergroup, we need to serve those who are struggling with food and food behaviors. We must have meetings, literature, and other support for the newcomers who seek us out. This is what the "WE" is all about.

The Spiritual Principle of Step 12 is "Service". This means that we all must take on the responsibility of doing what we can to enhance the program of every fellow we come in contact with. It also means serving our Intergroup by becoming a meeting rep and taking on board positions. Without our IG board, we cannot accomplish what we must to serve all.

As I said earlier we are at a crossroads unless people step up and take on the leadership of our Intergroup. Without a Chair, we are like a rudderless ship. We will have no destination to move toward.

Being Chair of our Intergroup is an honor. I have had the privilege of working with an amazing board of individuals who have worked to make it what it is. Now it is your turn! You will never be alone. You will have a group of people on the board willing to work with you and support you.

You cannot assume the Vice Chair will take on all the responsibility. That is unfair. One option is to have other board members take one month and run the IG board meeting so that the onus does not fall on one person. Again, unless someone is willing to take on being the Chair.

If this does not work, the last resort would be to fold our intergroup and merge with another local one. I want to stress that this is a **real possibility** and would affect many people who are struggling to get their lives back, just as you have gotten yours back.

Please, think about what NJIOA has done for you during your time in the program. Now is your opportunity to give back what has been given to you.

I hope you take this message seriously and take the action we need to keep the momentum going.

This very well could be our last Intergroup meeting!!!

Thank you,

Jon K.