***OA CJI (Central Jersey Intergroup)***

**Monthly Meeting – November 12, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, Danielle. Unity with diversity and other principles were read by Chair Danielle.

OA Tradition 11 was also read by Chair Danielle. Danielle commented that recently she saw a You Tube video from another Intergroup, not in our state or Region, and it showed peoples’ faces saying “Hey, come join us in OA - we are having so much fun!” and she thought her heart was going to jump out of her chest. Danielle advised everyone it is important to remember we don’t do faces.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Danielle asked all attendees below to introduce themselves:

* Ross, Robin, Cindy, Barbara (new Treasurer), Gloria, Mikey, Bobbi, Lucille, Donna, Lee Ann, Marybeth, Marty. Lusk, Sima and Kim G. also attended.

Donna asked a question about possibly missing/deleting the email containing an agenda for today’s meeting. Danielle responded that she was not able to get it out until the day before and she knew that Robin (Web Master) was working, but it is always posted under Intergroup Documents on the CJI website. Danielle then reminded everyone at last month’s meeting it was decided that all Representatives should read the Agenda and Minutes prior to the meeting in order to be prepared. She further said that Lucille is doing a great job with the minutes but they are big and due to them being so long (they are like a live transcript) it would take too much time to review them during the meeting. Robin (Web Master) also reminded everyone that all documents related to the meeting are available on the CJI website under Intergroup Documents page and are not attached to emails but can be accessed at any time. Danielle apologized for being a little bit late with them and explained that she cannot attached them to emails as that is the one downfall of Mail Chimp.

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH’S MINUTES

Danielle asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Ross asked for clarification and confirmation that emails will still be sent about these documents. Danielle explained that she will still be sending emails and there will be hyperlinks within the email that you can click on in order to access the documents. Danielle added that in her last email there was a link to the Treasurer Report and the Minutes, and the only thing that was not included was the Agenda. She apologized again for that but said going forward it should be included. Danielle once more asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Mikey asked a question regarding the budget related to adding another World Service Representative. Danielle said there is an item on the agenda to discuss the Budget later in the meeting. Ross made a motion to accept the minutes with no changes, it was seconded by Cindy, and there was substantial unanimity to approve. Mikey thanked Lucille again for her detailed minutes, which he said was like recreating the meeting, and added it was worth the one hour to read them. 😊

PAMPHLET PROJECT

Bobbi provided a report on the pamphlet called *OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies: Recovery Opportunities.* Bobbi stated she could not do it justice but wanted to advise that every group should have a copy of this pamphlet and anyone who is doing group service higher than group level should have a copy of it. The 12 Steps are listed on the inside cover, the back cover has the Concepts, and it also has the Traditions in it. Bobbi spoke about things we need to do in order to be able to work with each other. Bobbi indicated she needed this because she was always in isolation and an addict, so she didn’t know how to play well with others. She explained the Traditions teach you how to work well with other people and the Concepts are trying to teach her how to work well at the group level and she is still learning. Bobbi stated this pamphlet takes you from things at the group level to the Intergroup and Board level all the way up to World Service level, providing information on all the different levels. One of the things that struck her was the section on getting started with a group meeting in a small community. Bobbi read that if the distance is not too great a small meeting can plan exchange meetings with groups in nearby towns. So meetings that only have a few members or meetings that are struggling this might be something they may want to try. She also mentioned inviting a Delegate or Trustee to speak at a meeting. Bobbi also stated once a new group is established, they could invite people from the community and have an open meeting including maybe the Mayor, Doctors, Clergy, Nurses, etc., to teach them about what OA is all about. She further said the pamphlet contains information on how to keep members coming back, how to get things done in your group, what kind of service positions you may need in your group and what each one is responsible for, how problems get solved, how important unity is, hearing everyone’s point of view, and understanding what others are saying. Bobbi explained it goes through how to apply group conscience in making decisions, from a simple one of something that comes up in the middle of a meeting to a more controversial one that needs investigation and, like we do at the Intergroup level, may need a motion with pros and cons and voting. It also includes information on how newcomers can get help, what we can do in Intergroup and is just amazing with all the material it contains. Bobbi then stated there is a section on what to do about public information and one of the things that is covered is a question that comes up a lot at meetings and that is “*when is breaking my anonymity not an anonymity break?”* So that is a very good section to take a look at when answering this question and dealing with other group members on this topic. Bobbi said she had to stop because the pamphlet just goes on and on but she really recommends every group should have it as a resource and read through it and understand the information.

Danielle thanked Bobbi for her awesome presentation and advised she provided a link to this pamphlet. She then informed everyone that she would like to change the Pamphlet Project format. Danielle stated that typically someone would either do a 5-minute qualification or share on a pamphlet and not everyone has the pamphlets and we don’t get a lot of volunteers. So going forward she would like to have each Rep. do a section of the pamphlet for the same 5 minutes and would like to start this change next month. Robin asked if it was a section of the same pamphlet and Danielle confirmed it would be the first section - The 12 Traditions Are Our Guide. Robin offered to do it and Danielle thanked her. Danielle added it is so important for her to learn how to do service and not step on toes and there is always more to learn.

Intergroup Principles and Strategic Goals were read by Danielle.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chair Danielle stated she contacted Kathy G. and our OA sign at PNC will be up from Thanksgiving until after January 1st. She added that she got chills doing it because that sign helped her when she was in relapse. Danielle discussed 60-30-10 and she didn’t know if everyone was familiar with it because she wasn’t but it was something that Ross brought up. It seems that some groups may not be doing their 7th Tradition or they may not be kicking up anything to the Intergroup, however, the customary thing to do is that 60% of contributions would go to Intergroup and 30% would go to World Service and 10% would go to Region. You may want to remind your group because we want to make sure this is happening. Ross added that definitely at the 13 or so face-to-face meetings it’s easy to do it. He also said it’s not so easy with the other meetings and we may want to periodically vote some money to Region and World Service as we have done in the past. Gloria asked a question about the breakdown saying she was used to in the Jersey Shore Intergroup, when everything was normal, sending a check from the each group to the Intergroup and then they would divide it between Region and World Service and she wanted to confirm that is how CJI does it. She further said there is only one live meeting, which is a hybrid, in the previous JSI that is collecting money and she doesn’t think any of the other groups are doing anything. Danielle stated we cannot enforce anything and it is a suggestion and she actually found it on OA.org. She further explained that if we have any excess above our prudent reserves we would definitely kick up funds but that can’t always be counted on. Danielle advised most of the time we are to the wire with our budget. Gloria said she had never seen groups in the last 23 years send money directly to Region and World Service before but would let everyone in the former JSI know that is how it should be done going forward. She stated that she hopes we have some of those papers because with everything that happened and meetings closed, etc., I will have to get into this with them. Danielle advised she was not familiar with it either so Gloria is not the only one. Lee Ann added it is her understanding group meetings are sending money to various places and she has heard some are alternating and sending checks to Region 7 and Intergroup and World Service. She stated Region 7 is doing fine monetarily but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t keep supporting it and they do vote extra contributions up to World Service usually twice a year at the Spring assembly and the Fall assembly. Lee Ann said practically speaking it may be difficult for those not attending face-to-face meetings to do those donations so people are doing it in many different ways. Danielle reminded everyone due to the holidays there may be changes to meetings, so please let Bobbi know about any changes. She said there is probably a lot because Thanksgiving is on a Thursday, Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve are on Fridays and Christmas Day and New Year’s Day will be on a Saturday so please let her know about any changes. Danielle announced that we have a new address and thanked Barbara for making it happen. Please tell your groups our new address is 402 Main Street, Unit 100-255, Metuchen, NJ 08840. The website has been updated and it is also at the bottom of the Intergroup emails she has been sending out. Danielle next stated she is looking for a Committee to host a special event on the 12 Freedoms in January, 2022 and it can be in-person or via Zoom. Danielle said the reason she is looking to do this is because Region 7 has asked the Intergroups to do a workshop on it and the last time there was a contest and our Intergroup actually won things. Since we are one of the largest Intergroups in the Region she would like to make a good showing. Danielle asked for 2-3 volunteers and Lucille asked a question for more information on exactly what it’s all about. Danielle explained they came out with a wallet card about the 12 Freedoms, which are kind of like the Promises, and it exists in Voices of Recovery where it was originally posted. She said it could be a workshop with a couple of speakers or however you see it, total free range. Danielle stated she thinks we should have some workshops in addition to our marathons and January is typically a tough time of year, you may be trapped indoors or feeling yucky from the holidays and work tends to get hard at that time so it would be a good service to our Intergroup. Lucille agreed to help but stated she would need help from someone who knows what it’s all about. Bobbi also agreed to help as long as it is not on the same weekend as Winter Dreams. Donna also agreed to help but said she knows nothing about what would be involved. Bobbi said she has a previous workshop on this subject that was done in Colorado she can share with everyone. Danielle advised it can be found on page 205 in Voices of Recovery, thanked everyone who volunteered and said she would send out an email about getting together.

ANNIVERSARIES

On Tuesday Lakewood is 3 years and Thursday Lakehurst is 3 years. Danielle congratulated all of them.

VICE CHAIR

Danielle advised that Nick was not able to attend the meeting because everyone in his house was sick and to send some prayers his way.

TREASURER

Danielle stated she did not see Alex in attendance so she would attempt to present on the budget. She shared her screen to display the report but Danielle stated that since she is not the Treasurer she cannot answer any questions. Danielle apologized but said she was not aware that Alex was not going to be at the meeting. She asked if anyone had any questions or comments and Mikey said again about adding another Representative. Danielle explained that was next on the agenda to be covered. Ross made a motion to accept the report, Lee Ann seconded it, and there was substantial unanimity to approve.

Danielle next informed everyone that our accounting books were reviewed, and the Weighs & Means Committee went over the proposed budget and made changes. Fundraising was reduced because we are not really anticipating any, but we can certainly go back and look at that if needed. COVID-19 it made this a challenging budget because every time it seemed like things were going to come back to normal then it didn’t. Marathon Committee was reduced by $150 because the Marathons we have been having really have not had any expenses, other than the Zoom account which has already been paid for. Individual donations were increased by $2,000 because individuals are donating directly, whereas before they would have only donated in a group fashion in the past, plus we have a lot more groups now. The 12th Step Within Committee was increased by $100, as they needed that for their budget. The expenses for Fundraising was reduced by $500 as well. We reduced our donation to Region 7 by $75 and had to cut from a few places because we would not have been even if we didn’t. Danielle commented that she can’t believe this happened and it just speaks to how amazing Mikey is but under Insurance we reduced it by $200 even though things are really wacky. Literature purchases was reduced by $200 because it was guessed people are buying it online directly from World Service. Officers’ Expenses were reduced by $100 because we did not seem to spend that much in the last year. Phone was increased by $100 but Danielle could not remember the logic behind that and asked if anyone else could to speak up. Professional Outreach was reduced by $300 as no one has been able to get to those places due to COVID-19 restrictions. Travel to World Service was not changed. Treasurer Expenses were reduced by $75, Danielle stated Alex told her there were things she was not using like mailing of taxes, etc. Website Committee was increased by $500, which is definitely warranted because it is driving people to our Intergroup. Zoom account was increased by $50 should the need arise to bump it up for a large event. Travel to World Service is currently $3,000 for two (2) Representatives and if we want to have a vote on whether to change that because we do have the capacity now for a third Rep. Mikey advised that Professional Outreach was not reduced and it was the next line that was affected. Danielle double checked and it was confirmed by Bobbi that Rent was reduced instead. Bobbi also corrected that it was not Phone that was increased by rather Post Office Box in case the cost for the new Treasurer was going to be more.

Ross wanted to make a proposal to up the amount for Travel to World Service events by $1,500 because we are going to have a nomination for a third delegate, as per our By-Laws, so he requested it be raised to $4,500. Lee Ann responded that not only does she agree with Ross but she was also thinking maybe some of our colleagues from the southern part of our Intergroup potentially step up to that 3rd slot and wants to ask those folks if there is any interest in serving as a World Service representative. She wanted to try and recruit from the southern end of our team. Danielle stated she would love to include members of the previous Jersey Shore Intergroup as much as possible and had put her feelers out with some Region representatives and what Joan had told her was that no one there was interested in the travel. She encouraged Lee Ann if she had anybody in mind to please go ahead and nominate them. Mikey asked about North Jersey and said they don’t have a Rep. He stated there are really three (3) Intergroups, the South, Central and North Jersey. Danielle said that Lee Ann meant people from the Jersey Shore Intergroup who are now part of the Central Jersey Intergroup and Lee Ann and Gloria confirmed. Danielle said it’s got to be weird being established in an Intergroup for a long time and then going to a new Intergroup. Lee Ann seconded Ross’s motion and a vote was taken and there was substantial unanimity to approve.

RECORDING SECRETARY (Interim)

Lucille stated she was glad everyone likes her minutes because they really are basically a script of the meeting and they do take a while to read and to type. She thanked everyone for their appreciation and said that hopefully she will get faster with time. Danielle asked if Lucille needed anything to make it a little easier for the notes. Lucille responded that everyone has really made an effort if they are using an acronym to let her know what it stands for or if they are using someone’s name to try and spell it out for her.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Bobbi L. reported she has another revision to the meeting list coming soon. She also stated there was some feedback that some of the links to the Zoom meetings were not working. Bobbi advised she worked with the PDF format for awhile and those links are broken. She asked if anyone is a PDF expert and knows how to make those hyperlinks work again please let her know. In the meantime, the last revision she gave Robin (Web Master) was a Word document and all of those links did work. Bobbi went on to explain that sometimes in Word you may have to do a Control + click to get the link to work and usually a little box comes up telling you that you need to do that so right now the document is in Word because she cannot get the PDF links to work. Danielle asked if the link was just put on the web page and inserted in HTML would that work or is her knowledge of websites from 20 years ago and asked Robin if that was doable. Robin stated the meeting list that Bobbi is creating is so intricate and asked if Danielle was suggesting creating a web page to contain the same information. Danielle said yes with HTML code wouldn’t you be able to do that, and Robin explained that if it is simply a meeting list up on a web page, as it was for 1½ years, yes the links would work just fine but you would not be able to download it. It would just be a web page and yes Robin could create one based on the documentation that Bobbi gives her but it wouldn’t look great. Bobbi added that all the links are working in Word. Robin further advised that she thinks what people don’t seem to understand about that document is you have to download it and it’s not just opening a page and clicking on a link. She further explained you have to take the Word document and bring it into your home computer system and then the links will work. Robin said she will check some of the links when she gets the next document to make sure they work before she closes it out. Bobbi said that is what she was doing, going through every link on the PDF or Word document before giving it to Robin and then again once it is posted she randomly checks some to make sure they are working. She stated with the PDFs they were working the first time they were put up but by the second time they broke but the Word document has been working because Bobbi just went in today and randomly checked a couple of links and they did work. Bobbi also went through all the links on the revised document she is working on and they all also worked. Robin said she was not surprised to hear that Bobbi is working on a revised document because people keep changing their meeting details and sending them to her. Robin told Bobbi if she gets the revised version to her before the weekend she can get it up quickly. Bobbi stated she is still waiting for Edison right now because Chris had told her that he did change it to online and he won’t give her the new meeting number until he sees it up there so hopefully within a week she should have it done. Danielle said the list looks really good and she knows that both Bobbi and Robin are doing a lot of work and it is appreciated because it’s not like two (2) years ago when a meeting stayed at a place for some time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Web Master* - Robin B. stated she had a suggestion and asked to share her screen. She then suggested to take the Virtual Events page and make it the Events page, meaning every document that goes up on this page will be tagged either face-to-face or virtual. Robin said she has actually already been doing that because the idea was that people were so used to going to the Virtual Events page that if we have a face-to-face event it really needs to be on this page or people might miss it. She wanted to suggest we decommission the Events Flyers page, which has had flyers on it in the past but we just don’t have any face-to-face in play at the moment. Robin explained it will make her process simpler and believes it will streamline things a little bit. Marty said to just call it Events and when you click on Events you just get everything, whether it’s virtual or not. Lee Ann said she thought it was a great suggestion as she thinks putting it in one place makes sense and tagging it improves clarity. She further brought up something for discussion which was that we continue to list meetings that are not currently happening and physical meetings that are not currently happening and she gets calls for some of them because they are list on the page under World Service. Lee Ann takes the call and welcomes them to OA and explains the meeting structure but then has to say that meeting is not meeting in person right now and here is the link to go find a Zoom meeting. Lee Ann stated is it very cumbersome and she doesn’t know what the right thing to do is because she doesn’t want to de-register a meeting that might start up again at any time when anything changes. She said at the same time she feels it is a bit circular so she is just putting it out there and we don’t have to talk about it now but we could. Ross commented that he believes on the face-to-face meetings listed on OA.org it does say to call the Contact person because some of the face-to-face meetings are not meeting in person. He added that we have to be careful, as Lee Ann said, because if we start to de-register meetings we won’t have 48-49 meetings so unless a meeting tells us they are closed officially they should remain the same because the hope is they are going to come back. Danielle questioned if they could be put on the bottom as temporarily inactive rather than mixed in with all the other meetings and Bobbi responded they are currently listed as temporarily inactive but the time is listed in case they come back. Lee Ann stated she was talking about the one on the World Service website which is not giving us the flexibility to say face-to-face is temporarily suspended. Danielle said that was a good point. Bobbi said she thought there was a comment box and meetings can go in and edit the meeting information to put something in the comment box. Danielle stated that we are coming up on two (2) years and are going to have to start talking about it because if a meeting hasn’t come back on Zoom or face-to-face and some of them didn’t come back because there were only 2 people attending. She said how long do we wait, it’s not something that we have to talk about tonight, but some of those meetings are probably not going to come back. Danielle asked Robin if she wanted to make a motion about the change to the Events page of the website and Robin asked if she needed to make a motion. Danielle responded that it doesn’t need a motion, Robin is a trusted servant, and it’s a concept. Robin stated she would make the change and just brand it the Events page. She said that probably in the next six (6) months we are going to have more events that are face-to-face but will continue to have virtual events because many people find them better if you want to do something and have a national platform for it you will need to make a virtual event. Robin stated she appreciates what Bobbi has done because we no longer have a list that is a temporary list because we surely aren’t going to be doing this for too long but it’s going to be interesting.

*Member Writing Ad Hoc Committee* – Robin reported they did meet but she did not know what they concluded and asked Lee Ann to speak about what was discussed because she thought it was dealt with last month. Lee Ann stated it was raised last month but that she, Nick and Robin were asked to talk about it. They discussed content that is currently on the website which is displayed and accessible but not very much accessed which includes Member Writing and reported content. She said that Robin went through the stats on things that are and are not utilized. What they were going to bring back to Intergroup for a vote was things that were not being accessed could be hidden and/or taken off the accessible portion of the website so we would have a cleaner website with less stuff on it by taking out thinks like the Quote of the Day, and the writings pages, etc. The content can be saved and there is no additional overhead for doing that and it could be revisited at any time. Lee Ann asked Robin to confirm and Robin stated anything we decide to stop running she simply removes the link from the menu. It is still there so if anyone is linking to it specifically they are not going to come up with a blank page and it can be reposted at any time. Robin further stated some of those things she has already taken out of the menu but she would like to wait for a month and maybe next month ask Nick if he would like to make a specific motion and maybe they need to talk again about what is up there and if there is anything else that needs to be taken down.

*CJI Outreach* – Mikey reported there are no particular events scheduled and unfortunately the last meeting was a little sparse. But he is testing a new idea because he has a bunch of flashlights, pens and literature that he is going to supply to each face-to-face meeting, only face-to-face meetings. He is asking at the time of the meeting for Announcements they share if anyone would like to share these with their personal physicians. Mikey said we are not asking them to go out and find anyone else but just to give these to their personal physicians who know their personal story or just know them and by giving these out to take one of the gifts for themselves for their efforts. He did it with Ross at the two (2) Jackson meetings and Lucille will probably have it shortly as he sent it out today. Mikey explained he needs to think of a better way of getting the materials out to them because it is a little expensive as postage for just a small amount is $6.00-$7.00. He said once we start talking about having a place for storage for our facility, an actual place for all the OA outreach materials which is coming up under New Business. Mikey stated he also has some ideas if he can get some help on it. He said that instead of having outreach meetings every other month he is going to start asking people via Zoom if they can do this or that because he is not having much success getting everyone together. Mikey said he will be sending out an agenda to all of the Outreach Committee members and see if they can come up with some plans. He has some ideas about how to deal with the bariatric surgeons, etc., and will provide that along with a summary of their last meeting. Mikey said maybe doing things by email rather than one Zoom meeting they can get things done. Danielle commented there were a few new people attending the meeting and asked if there was anyone who was interested in becoming a member of the Outreach Committee. Kim G. agreed to help Mikey out and said she joined the program back in April but did in June go through gastric sleeve surgery. She said there was a lot of frustration in the beginning when she asked the doctor what does she do when she can’t stop eating, because she was new to the whole concept of OA, and was told to work with a nutritionist but she had already done that. Kim also told the doctor that she had a food addiction but didn’t really know where to go for help and it was sad they couldn’t give her any information. She said now that she is on the other side of it she would like to reach out to them and the nutritionists. Mikey asked Kim to provide her phone number and email address because he is thinking about going to the special hospitals where doctors go to do their residency for bariatric surgery and would contact her about it and thanked Kim for stepping up. Marty also offered to help and Mikey also told him to provide his phone number and email address and he would add him to the list as well and thanked him for his service.

*12th Step Within –* Danielle advised that Frank was not at the meeting because he was going to Cleveland but was not being inducted into the Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame, which sounds suspicious, but stated Ross would be giving the report. Ross reported everything is in good shape for 12th Step Within Day, which is on December 12th and is an OA holiday. He added that on December 8th the Committee is going to have a run through and there are two (2) speakers, one from Colorado and one from Nevada and there is a backup speaker just in case, which is always a good idea. Ross said the flyer is gorgeous and he believes our friends from North Jersey Intergroup helped Frank with the flyer. He also stated for that any events CJI holds should be posted on the Region 7 calendar. Now that the convention is over there are only two (2) events and one is in 2022 and our 12th Step Within Day is there. Ross explained it is very easy to do and he recommends doing that to get the word out. He said everyone is excited and looking forward to this event. Danielle agreed that is an excellent idea and maybe put it on the loop as well because the more people that know the more people we can help.

*Fund Raiser* - There was also no report from Fundraiser.

NEWS FROM REGION 7

*Assembly Report* - Danielle stated this was on the calendar to be on the agenda but Mikey said he thought Lee Ann already gave a report on the Assembly but he didn’t know if he did and he didn’t have it available right now. He said Lee Ann’s report was phenomenal and covered everything because no one can give a report like Lee Ann. Danielle laughed that Lee Ann was blushing and she said it was the Irish in her.

NEWS FROM WORLD SERVICE

Lee Ann stated she didn’t have anything for this time but Ross did so he reported that it’s a good sign because as we speak the Board of Trustees are meeting in Albuquerque. He went on to say there are 7-8 plus the WSO (World Service Organization) staff are there and it has an online feature to it, so it’s hybrid, and that is for our overseas Trustees. Ross said he thinks that is a good sign for our World Service Business Conference (WSBC) at the end of April, 2022. He believes it will be finalized sometime this week and today was actually the last day of the three (3) day meeting in New Mexico and one of the things on the agenda is the 2022 WSBC. Ross stated it looks like it is going to be hybrid but only for overseas and in-person for the World Service delegates in the U.S. and there will be more coming on that. Also, Ross added he is a member of the 12th Step Within Committee for World Service and the still struggling sub-committee. They had a meeting this past Thursday and there is a really neat PowerPoint which is almost done but they just have to add a few things to it. Ross explained he has an assignment that he has to do within a week and he is looking forward to that. He said that hopefully if it gets okayed it will be on our OA.org website and will help a lot of people. Danielle thanked Ross and Lee Ann for their service.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Danielle explained that she always gets By-Laws and Policies & Procedures confused. She asked Bobbi to confirm that although By-Laws may not have a report the Policies & Procedures may have a report. Bobbi agreed and reported that her and Ross got most of the revisions to the Policies & Procedures done thanks to Robin and Frank and Mikey for filling in the big bare spots in the procedure manual. Bobbi said she is hoping within the next week to have it finished and just has a couple of things she is getting feedback on to be able to get Danielle a copy of that revision. Bobbi explained the way she has set it up is she struck through the stuff we propose to take out and put in green **bold** the stuff we propose to put in so that people can read through it really quick and see what it was before and how we want to change it. She said then within a month get feedback and comments and hopefully vote on it the month after. Danielle asked if she meant we were going to vote on it in December or January. Bobbi responded that it depends on how fast people read through it and the feedback and questions we get because just like the meeting minutes everyone should have read it and be ready to vote on it. She said maybe January if we get a lot of feedback and changes. Danielle asked Bobbi to let her know if she needs to send anything out in an email and thanked her for her service.

Ross wanted to go back to By-Laws and stated his understanding is that it has been reviewed. But since Nick was not here Ross asked if our Region 7 Trustee Karen has been notified because he wondered if she needs to see it. He said maybe Nick has already done this but he doesn’t know and perhaps Nick contacted her and just said there have been no changes so it’s the same as it was in 2019. Ross asked if it could be confirmed whether Karen needs to see it again or can just give an okay since there are no changes. Then what has to happen is that on the website the date of the By-Laws would have to be changed to 2021 to keep track that we are doing it every two (2) years.

INSURANCE

Mikey reported we should be receiving our bill so Alex will get it and forward it to Barbara. He stated at the end of this month we get a revised one as it is from December 1st to December 1st. Mikey advised it is very easy to get the Liability Certificate with corrected dates or if there are any changes.

MARATHONS

Danielle advised since Nick and Mike were not here there would be no new report on Idea Day or Unity Day.

* *Idea Day*

Danielle reminded everyone there is a fantastic Idea Day planned on November 21, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and it is virtual.

* *Unity Day*

Danielle said it might be a little too early but she knows that Mike had been putting out some feelers on that one.

* *Sponsorship Day*

Danielle stated she just realized that Sponsorship Day was not listed and that is her marathon but we have no report.

RETREATS & EVENTS

*Together We Can Recover* - Sima confirmed it is too early for a report on this retreat.

*Winter Dreams* – Bobbi reported that Winter Dreams will be live. She stated the flyer and registration form was finished just a few days ago and hopefully it will be going to Robin to post – she only got half of it but the other half is coming. Bobbi stated it will be held January 14-16 and it is at Maris Stellas down in Harvey Cedar and everybody will have their own single room because of COVID-19 we will be following COVID precautions and requesting that people be vaccinated since this will be one of the first live retreats down there. Bobbi said they are working out the menu now and have a tentative schedule already. She advised the title is Touching the Waves of Recovery. Danielle asked if it was okay to put this in the What’s New email and Bobbi said yes. Bobbi added she has to thank Jersey Shore Intergroup because they had reservations for Harvey Cedar before COVID and they had put in their $50.00 non-refundable deposit so they didn’t get it back when the retreat was cancelled but Harvey Cedar is saying that because they are part of us they will honor that so we don’t have to pay another $50.00 non-refundable deposit. Danielle asked how much will the retreat cost and Bobbi answered $220.00 per person. Danielle requested a completed flyer by the end of the week so she could include it in the email and Bobbi asked her to speak with Nick or Bobbi to get that because Nick did the actual flyer (first page) and Bobbi did the registration form (second page). Robin commented that the first page has a typo in it. Donna asked if attendance was very limited and Bobbi replied yes because of the three (3) members of the Committee going there are only seventeen (17) spots open. Gloria asked if any of the days would be open to day trippers and is that be an option for this retreat. Bobbi said that was a good question but because of COVID they are not going to be doing that.

OLD BUSINESS

Danielle stated we are going to have a Treasurer election and everyone better pick a Treasurer or she is going to flip a table. She asked if anyone would like to nominate a Treasurer or an Interim Treasurer. Robin said she would like to nominate Barbara M. but she doesn’t know if she qualifies as Treasurer or Interim Treasurer because she didn’t know if Barbara has Intergroup service. Danielle confirmed the Intergroup service would be new for her so it would be Interim Treasurer. She asked if there were any other nominations and then said let’s vote. Danielle said she really wished she was allowed to vote. She stated she was so happy and thanked Barbara for stepping up and it was a pleasure to have her. Ross advised he had a question before the vote because he doesn’t think we vote on an Interim position. Danielle said she didn’t know that. Ross said he thinks it is appointed and Lee Ann can back him up or not. Robin advised she would like the record to reflect there will be a transition period because Nick is needed to sign paperwork so Alex and Barbara will work together for the next couple of weeks until Nick is able to go to the bank to sign paperwork. She further asked that everyone be patient. Robin also asked Mikey to research the insurance bill to make sure they are aware we are in transition with regards to a Treasurer and Mikey said he would follow up with the insurance. Danielle said it is awesome that we have a new Treasurer and she really appreciated Alex because she was even willing to do a couple of extra months over her four (4) years, which she would never have let her do, but she always went above and beyond and was a great Treasurer. She added that we are going to miss her and are grateful she is helping with the transition.

NEW BUSINESS

Danielle asked Mikey to lead on new business because it is about the literature that he has. Mikey explained that he picked up about ten (10) boxes of literature, primarily books – big books, little books, medium size books – all OA literature and he is storing it in his house. He also has tons of pamphlets and things like that but said it is not good for him to keep all these materials and right now we still have a box of material for the Intergroup over at the hospital. Mikey can’t reach anyone at the hospital and said it is absolutely impossible and hard to believe. He stated that we should really consider changing our physical location of where we keep the materials, in order words no longer keep it at the hospital. Mikey explained he would like to have it at Aldersgate Church, which is where the Friday morning face-to-face meeting is held, because they are very accommodating. He further said they are willing to provide us with a separate room for our Intergroup where we can store things. Mikey asked what do we want to do about storage – do we want to find a new facility that would accommodate us or continue with the hospital which really can’t accommodate us anymore and are in another world. He said we have not paid the hospital any donation for use of the room either for the Intergroup or for the group meeting on Friday mornings but the materials are still there. Mikey advised he was there about two (2) weeks ago and saw the materials were still there so nothing has really changed. He said we need to start thinking about what we want to do either short-term or medium-term as far as either relocating the materials or having him hold on to them and making a decision. Mikey stated he is also asking the Friday morning group if they want to continue as a Zoom meeting because there are a lot of people who like it because it is very easy. He said if they decide to do that he will personally start a new meeting, not in competition with Friday morning but he doesn’t want to lose a face-to-face meeting so have it on another day but use the same facility. Mikey said that way we will still have the registration which is important. He added maybe we should start thinking about what do we want to do with all of our stuff in Intergroup. Gloria asked what hospital is Mikey speaking about and he replied Old Bridge hospital on Route 18 but it has a new name like Hackensack Meridian. Lee Ann suggested if the literature is saleable, although it would mean schlepping it, if we do have retreats or in-person events people are frequently looking to pick up literature. She also acknowledged that she had boxes of OA literature for awhile and it is burdensome. Mikey agreed and said he doesn’t want to keep it at his some and there is no reason not to keep it where we are having face-to-face meetings where someone could go in anytime and you don’t have to depend on him being home to give you the stuff plus he doesn’t have enough room for it. Danielle asked if the issue is that the quantity is too large and Mikey said it is at least ten (10) boxes of books and several other boxes of pamphlets. Danielle suggested we could put the word out to meetings and see if anyone wants to purchase them and consider disbursing them throughout the community like free little libraries or public libraries, or leaving them at a doctor’s office for someone to find. It would actually be a way to reach potential newcomers. Mikey asked if we really want to give away over $1,000 worth of material and Danielle replied not all of it but perhaps some of it. Danielle also said aren’t they going to start producing new literature because we have changed the definition of abstinence and it was just a thought. Mikey said he was going to make an inventory of everything that he has including what Jersey Shore Intergroup gave him and what he has in the way of pamphlets. Once we have an inventory maybe a decision can be made. Mikey said a lot of money was paid for it for fundraisers and we should continue using it for that purpose and not give it away. Gloria said they had a literature person and every time they had a marathon or event she would bring it and of course CJI is dealing with a much bigger area. She further stated that everything is different now because of the pandemic and if someone wanted a book they would contact Amazon or World Service but if people are going to start going out again to in-person events they could purchase the literature. Gloria said it could be a fundraiser if we charge even a dollar a book more. She thinks at a marathon or a retreat is the best way to sell it and then see after that how much you actually have left. Gloria said in the meantime maybe more than one person should be holding it because it seems like a lot unless you have a very big house. Mikey said there are two (2) considerations, for outreach, which he is involved with, we would give it away and any extras we would sell and that money would go toward our fundraiser but we haven’t had one in two (2) years. He said the philosophy of stuff going to people who don’t know about us and giving it to them is good but for a fundraiser it’s different. Mikey said big books, etc., are not for outreach and that is more for a fundraiser. Danielle said she is going to give Lee Ann the final comment on this matter but because there are so many ideas and we don’t have an inventory or a lot of clarity we should bring it up again next month under Old Business and someone should come with a motion. Lee Ann stated that from a literature availability perspective, and Alex is not here to corroborate, we in the past have passed a motion at the Intergroup to buy a case of books from the OA bookstore and if you buy a case there is a discount which covers the postage. She further said they would sell the books at their per copy price and would net zero. Lee Ann added it was booked as a fundraiser but technically it was about spreading the message. Lee Ann suggested and realized she was asking Mikey to do this because he has the stuff but if we could get a list of whether we have used meeting copies or ready to sell copies. If we have ready to sell copies that would be great and we should sell it down in her opinion. She said for the ready to sell materials we think about logistically how to deliver that to any in-person event that is of any size at all. Lee Ann said she thinks the days of literature people going around to different places are perhaps behind us. If it’s a meeting copy in the past we have made copies for any group who wanted to start up, and at this point it would have to be in-person, a literature meeting. Mikey said he has no problem doing it and will send out an inventory of everything he has but wanted to ask if we want to move from Old Bridge. Danielle responded that it has to be New Business for next month and asked Mikey to come with a motion. Mikey stated he found something and doesn’t want it to disappear and Danielle thanked him for keeping all the literature but said we need to come up with a better plan because it sounds like an awful lot. She also thanked Joan for helping to get the JSI literature to Mikey.

Danielle advised we now have Region representatives nominations and the qualifications are one (1) year of abstinence and service to the Intergroup and there are four (4) slots available. Danielle nominated Robin and asked if there were any other nominations. Ross asked if we can have five (5) reps but Danielle stated she only had four (4) because we did not hit fifty (50) meetings. Ross replied and asked Lee Ann or Mikey to correct him if he’s wrong, you get one (1) representative for every ten (10) meetings and then one (1) rep for any fraction of the next ten (10). Danielle said she didn’t know that and Bobbi confirmed it was correct. Ross then asked who are the current Region reps or do we not have any current Region reps at this time because everyone rotated out. Danielle stated we do not because Lee Ann is not a voting member. Danielle explained that Mikey rotated out but he is still on the committee. Ross then nominated Danielle and she responded that she was also hoping for that and she would accept that nomination with the caveat she is scheduled to have a pretty major surgery on her back in January/February. Danielle stated she would agree to be the Region rep but cannot say for sure that she could attend the Assembly in February because the surgery would have happened by then and she is looking at a 3-6 month recovery so she might not be able to make this one unfortunately. Ross next nominated Cindy but he was not sure about the logistics and Danielle asked Cindy if she would accept the nomination. Cindy asked for clarification as to what she was being nominated for and Danielle explained it was as Representative for Region 7 and she would be able to attend two (2) assemblies each year and all expenses would be paid for by the Intergroup. Cindy asked if she had to live in the Region and Danielle said getting there might be an issue for her. Cindy replied that she doesn’t know where she will be and therefore cannot commit at this time. Danielle said that was fair enough and if anything changes maybe we could re-visit it. Danielle also advised there was one more nomination and that Mike M. was interested and therefore she knows he accepts. Ross asked if the requirements were six (6) months of abstinence and six (6) months of Intergroup service for a Region representative. Danielle said she thought it was one (1) year but referred to the By-Law experts for confirmation because she is still learning. Bobbi confirmed that per the By-Laws it is six (6) months of abstinence and six (6) months of service to CJI. Mikey also commented that anyone can self-nominate. Ross then said he would like to nominate Lucille and Danielle added that by then she would have six (6) months of Intergroup service because she has done 2-3 months already and asked Lucille if she would accept. Lucille responded that she needs to know exactly when in February she would need to be in Maryland because she will be on vacation in Florida for part of that month. Lee Ann stated it is scheduled for the last weekend in February and generally the travel day is Friday and everyone arrives in the late afternoon at the retreat center and the departure would be on Sunday around noon and the retreat center is called Bon Secours. Lucille asked what are the actual dates of the last weekend in February 2022 and Lee Ann looked it up on her phone and replied 2/25, 2/26 and 2/27. Lucille then stated she believes that she can do it and said thank you for the nomination. Danielle explained there will be official elections next month and asked if there were any other nominations as we currently have four (4) people who have been nominated so we could have one (1) more but there were none. Danielle then stated we have one more nomination and that would be for World Service delegate and there is one (1) spot and she asked Ross to correct her if wrong but said it required two (2) years of service above the group level and Ross confirmed it was one (1) year of abstinence and two (2) years of service above the group level. Danielle asked if anyone was interested in becoming a World Service delegate. Ross nominated Mikey J. and Danielle agreed. Mikey stated he really liked what Lee Ann had to say about getting someone from the Jersey Shore Intergroup but Ross reminded him this is just a nomination and the election isn’t until next month. Ross further said he hopes we have more than one (1) nominee so that we can have an actual election but he is nominating Mikey. Mikey then joked and asked what is the pay – is it good money? Ross laughed and said yes, it’s recovery. Mikey then accepted and Danielle said that was awesome. Danielle asked if there were any other nominations. Ross said he would have nominated Danielle except she is a couple of months short of the requirement, but there’s always next year. Danielle informed everyone they are able to attend the World Service event at their own expense as a page and it’s a great way to learn and she is going to do it. She further said it seems like kind of a party with good people to hang with. So think about it and if you are interested talk to Ross because he knows more about it.

NEWS FROM GROUPS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Danielle asked if anyone had any news or announcements from their groups. Marty informed everyone the Sunday meeting at Lawrence Harbor, which is a Zoom meeting, is now a writing and literature meeting. It was previously a workshop meeting with the new OA book on body image relationship and sexuality so he wants to get the word out. Marty also stated he believes it can be co-listed with World Service as a Zoom meeting. He added there are not that many writing meetings so it’s great and spread the word. Marty explained they are still deciding what literature they are going to use and right now they are using some of the old Lifeline stuff that’s free to read on the website. Gloria asked Marty to clarify what time the meeting was and he answered it is the Lawrence Harbor meeting on Sundays from 5:30-6:30 pm. Mary Beth then advised the Saturday morning Red Bank meeting is starting the Big Book all over again from the beginning so if anyone is interested in a Big Book meeting it is always good to start at the beginning of the book. Ross asked a question about the group that was sponsoring the OA Walk, maybe Shrewsbury, is there going to be a November OA Walk? Lucille responded that it was discussed at their last meeting but due to the lack of interest, probably because of the cold weather, there is no walk scheduled for November and probably throughout the winter. Danielle asked if there was any more news from groups and no one responded.

CONCEPT – 11 Humility: Danielle read - trusty administration of the World Service office should always be assisted by the best standing committees, executives, staff and consultants. Danielle further commented that she thinks this Intergroup has some of the best trusted servants she has ever seen in OA and it just warms her heart to be here and she really loves all of us so thank you for showing up. She said not only do we show up but we show up in double and triple time and thank you all for your understanding that I have a little bit of a learning curve in case you haven’t noticed but your support has meant a lot. Danielle exclaimed we are awesome – we are big and we are bad and she loves it. Keep up the great work everybody.

November 21st from 10:00 am is virtual Idea Day. December 12th from 1:00–3:00 pm is Carry the Message 12 Step Within workshop (virtual). January 14-16, 2022 is Winter Dreams in-person.

*General Note* - please remember to send all changes and any holiday changes for group meetings (new, cancelled, changed times, locations, contacts, etc.) to BobbiLink@aol.com.

Danielle adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm after a moment of silence and the Serenity prayer.

The next meeting will be on Friday, December 10th at 7:00 pm.