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

**Monthly Meeting – September 9, 2022**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, Danielle, after a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Unity with Diversity policy, OA’s Tradition 9 and Concept 9 were read and discussed by Danielle.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Danielle introduced herself and asked all attendees below to introduce themselves:

* Robin B. (Webmaster, Metuchen/Saturday), Mikey (WSBC Delegate, Chair/Outreach, East Brunswick/Monday), Alex (Freehold/Monday), Barbara (Treasurer, Edison/Sunday), Donna (Flemington/Saturday), Elaine (Lakehurst/Tuesday), Lee Ann (Region 7 Rep.), Lusk (Pine Beach/Thursday), Marty (Lawrence Harbor/Sunday), Marybeth (Red Bank/Saturday), Ross (WSBC Delegate, Jackson/Wednesday), and Sima (Cranford/Saturday).

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH’S MINUTES

Sima stated under the title “Weighs & Means” the spelling needs to be changed to “Ways”. Ross said on page 2 under WSO it states he has been on the By-Laws Committee for 4 years, but that is actually in reference to him serving 2 terms as a delegate at the World Service Business Conference and he is rotating out but he continues to serve on the By-Law Committee for the remaining of the year until the next conference. Lee Ann made a motion to approve the minutes with these changes and Donna seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

PAMPHLET PROJECT

Danielle reported the pamphlet project has been pushed to next month as Frank was unable to attend the meeting.

Danielle spoke about the OA Intergroup Principles and Strategic Goals.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Danielle confirmed the OA logo has been officially approved and will be used on the podcast. Please bring a friend or sponsee or anyone to an Intergroup meeting as we need more people participating. She advised that Frank has stepped down from the 12th Step Within Committee and asked for a volunteer to take care of the once-a-year service commitment on 12/12. Ross agreed to help this year but agreed we need someone to step up and take this on. Marty said he could help with planning it virtually as he will be in Costa Rico at that time and Lusk also offered to help. Danielle reminded everyone to let her know if their group meeting is affected by any of the upcoming holidays.

VICE CHAIR

Nick was unable to attend this meeting to give the Vice Chair report.

TREASURER

Barbara advised our last month was uneventful. We brought in $660. approximately, which is average. Not too many expenses other than Region 7 Fall Assembly for Danielle and the usual Zoom and website costs. Barbara stated she is pretty much all caught up on everything and reminded everyone if you are sending money or anything to the Treasurer please include the PO Box #255. Barbara will not be at the next meeting due to her daughter getting married and suggested Danielle have someone provide the Treasurer report for her but Danielle requested Barbara present the report when she returns instead in case people have questions. Robin B. asked about submitting receipts from the Region 7 Fall Assembly as to what would be reimbursed. Barbara/Alex did not know off the top of their head and stated they would have to look it up. Lee Ann explained this year it was a little different because the registration fee included meals and in the past that was not the case. Barbara later explained for reimbursement CJI will pay for hotel expenses for a shared room and registration fees to attend the Region 7 Fall Assembly (approved amount = $125) with receipts. Mikey asked about Reps for the assembly and Danielle confirmed that she and Robin B. and possibly Mike M. would be attending and it is a face-to-face event.

RECORDING SECRETARY

There was no report as Lucille was unable to attend the meeting (in Hawaii).

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Bobbi was unable to attend the meeting so there was no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Robin B. reported the website continues to function well and she tries to keep it up to date, especially the meeting list.

Mikey stated he doesn’t have anything planned for the Outreach Committee right now and is hoping to get more people involved. He is excited about the upcoming Literature event on September 24th. He does also have a date next April scheduled with Resident who are specializing in psychology and another one with first year medical students at Robert Wood Johnson but a date has not been confirmed yet.

Ross reported on the 12th Step Within Committee and confirmed that Frank had let him know about leaving and he made a note to contact Mary and Lusk about an event for 12th Step Within Day on 12/12.

NEWS - REGION 7

Lee Ann reported it’s exciting to be having the first in-person Fall Assembly in 2 years and also the venue. There is not a lot of business to be done but it will be so good to see everyone.

NEWS - WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION (WSO)

Mikey shared he made an Emergency Business Motion at the WSBC to be voted on immediately for the Board of Trustees to create an ad-hoc Committee to investigate the dwindling number of attendees at in-person meetings. He wanted to know what we can do to improve this situation. Mikey also stated the virtual meeting has been invaluable in providing access to an OA meeting for many people who were not previously able to attend but is concerned it is now taking the place of the face-to-face meeting as far as attendance. Since the pandemic many face-to-face meetings have become permanent Zoom meetings and now even when a new or previous in-person meeting exists the attendance is less than it was before. He asked specifically for them to look into: 1) Success of members who started in a virtual meeting versus an in-person meeting; 2) Seventh tradition contributions in both settings; 3) Retention of members in both settings; 4) Forum on why someone should go to a face-to-face meeting when they get the same effect at a virtual meeting while home in their pajamas; 5) Take a survey of both and see what members are experiencing. We lost the vote but said this matter would be addressed in a 12th Step Within Committee. Donna stated part of the problem is the hospitals are not open to in-person meetings and have no plans to change in the future but if anything changes they might do a hybrid meeting. She also mentioned some of the group members have moved away but can still join the group meeting via Zoom. Lee Ann reported the meeting at Robert Wood Johnson is a Zoom meeting now even though they could physically go back but many of the members are out of the area from all over the country and beyond and it’s a wonderful meeting. Ross spoke about the Freehold meeting at Centrastate hospital and they are still very strict about masks, etc., and so they became an online meeting. Marty stated OA is becoming global and if someone finds a meeting via Zoom and it’s a good thing. Maybe OA is in it’ infancy in some countries and it’s great to be able to get speakers from around the world as well and there are advantages to both. Ross reported on the By-Laws Committee and Sub-Committee and the checklist he and others created but it has been approved.

INSURANCE

Danielle reminded Mikey that they should talk offline about doing an annual insurance review and he stated material was previously emailed to her and he would send them again since she did not receive it.

WAYS & MEANS

A meeting is scheduled next Thursday with Danielle, Treasurer (Barbara), Bobbi and Alex, and anyone is welcome to attend.

LITERATURE EVENT

Mikey reported on the Literature Disbursal Action Team (Ross, Robin Bobbi, Mikey) and there is about 17 boxes of OA literature. Any out-of-date material will be provided at no cost and the current literature available for sale on the bookstore will be $5 each. All pamphlets are going to be free and other items such as pens, flashlights, etc., plus t-shirts will be $5 as well. There is a new version of Voices of Recovery and a vote is needed on how to handle the old one. Ross made a motion to include Voices of Recovery in the $5 sale and a vote was taken and the motion passes. Mikey needs a few more people to help set up the event and is going to have a meeting to discuss. Danielle asked for volunteers, Alex offered to help the day of but if needed before could be available, and Danielle also encourage everyone to attend.

OA EVENTS/HOLIDAYS

* ***Sponsorship Day*** – was last month and Danielle thanked Alex, Joan and Nick for a great event.
* ***Idea Day*** – Ross advised he offered Nick and Mike a location in Jackson at the Methodist Church but it would have to be on a Saturday – possibly November 19. He gave an estimate number of 60 which was the number of attendees pre-pandemic. Ross asked if it a hybrid event the church would allow the use of their wi-fi. Ross added that Nick had asked about having the discounted literature available at this event and he will have it by that time.
* ***Together We Can Recover Retreat*** – Elaine reported the event is live tomorrow and there are currently 26 people registered to be in attendance. The weather should be good for the labyrinth and it is exciting to be having it in-person.

OLD BUSINESS

Robin advised she will follow-up to find out if others are doing podcasts. Marty stated that our recordings are being picked up by other Intergroups and they have pages of this and maybe we don’t need a podcast if it is going to be an additional cost. Danielle stated there was a vote to move forward with a podcast.

Lucille was not at in attendance and Danielle asked Marty if he had anything to report now or would he be willing to wait until next month to discuss and he agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Danielle had an idea about having a journal similar to the Region 7 journal and wanted to know if anyone was interested in creating a fundraiser for this purpose but there was no response. She also discussed having all Intergroup events could be hybrid they would need and a special omni microphone ($30-50) and used iPad ($159) and they would need internet access, which could be someone’s hot spot or the church’s wi-fi. Marty thought it was a good idea and hybrid may be the way to go due to geographic distance plus it doesn’t seem like a big investment. Robin B. stated she doesn’t want to be the one who is responsible to make sure hybrid meetings are working since she has the technical know-how. But she also thinks it might be an interesting idea to show it’s not that hard and see if there is any interest. Ross said there are so many virtual options available and he would be against hybrid options because the in-person ones are still struggling for attendance. Lee Ann stated she is on Zoom all day every day and she would also not want to have to be responsible to make sure the hybrid meeting works but it may be worth investigating. She also mentioned in regard to Roberts Rules and said we have to be very careful and there may be issues with not being in attendance in person affecting someone’s ability to vote, etc. Mikey added his opinion that all Intergroup meetings are now virtual only doesn’t make him happy but maybe it is the way things are going and we need more information to determine what is better and he is very concerned. Sima added that before Cranford went back to an in-person meeting she used to attend the Berkely Heights online Saturday meeting and really liked it. They changed to a hybrid meeting and she would be happy to see how they are doing. Danielle asked about making a motion and Marty made a motion to try it out and also do a survey. She stated it would require an expense and maybe for a trial basis we could just get the microphone and use someone’s iPad to try it as a pilot. Marty said it could be a service for all of OA and would handle the survey. Lee Ann seconded the motion and it was half and half so Danielle was the deciding and voted for it.

NEWS FROM GROUPS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mikey stated Monday morning at 10:00 am in the Alders Gate Church there is a great meeting and you don’t need to bring anything doing a Step Study using the 12 and 12 so please come.

Elaine reported the Lakehurst meeting on Tuesday at 10 am has been doing well with 3 newcomers and in January they will celebrate an anniversary.

Marybeth advised on the 9/17 the Red Bank Saturday morning meeting is voting as to whether or not to change their location. She will be away but will let Bobbi know the results.

Danielle read Concept 9 and explained it and the Spiritual Principle of delegation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Together We Can Recover Retreat – September 10th (in person)

September 16-19 - Region 7 Fall Assembly at Bon Secor (in-person)

Literature Event – East Brunswick, September 24th (in-person)

November 4-6 – Region 7 Convention in Ocean City, Maryland (in-person)

*General Note* - please remember to send all changes for group meetings (new, cancelled, changed times, locations, contacts, etc.) to BobbiLink@aol.com. Any flyers or other items to be posted to the CJI website should go to Robin B. at reb2670@gmail.com. Please let Danielle know about any meeting changes due to holidays.

Danielle adjourned the meeting early at approximately 8:20 pm after the Serenity prayer.

The next meeting will be on Friday, October 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.