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

**Monthly Meeting – March 10, 2023**

**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 3 and Concept 3 were read and discussed by Danielle.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

* Alex (Freehold/Monday, Webmaster), Gloria (Lakewood/Wednesday), Mike M (Brick/Tuesday, Region Rep), Mikey (East Brunswick/Monday Chair Outreach, Insurance), Barbara (Treasurer), Lucille (Asbury Park/Monday, Recording Secretary), Elaine (Lakehurst/Tuesday), Frank – formerly Red Bank (Online/Thursday), Joan (Manahawkin), Lusk (Pine Beach), Lee Ann (Region 7 Recording Secretary/Rep, WSO Rep), Marty (Lawrence Harbor/Sunday), Marybeth (Corresponding Secretary, Red Bank/Saturday), Michael (Highland Park), Nick (Vice Chair), Robin B. (Metuchen/Sunday), Sima (Cranford/Saturday), Ross (Jackson/Wednesday).

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH’S MINUTES

Danielle asked if there were any changes to the February minutes – no response. Robin made a motion to accept the minutes as is and Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Danielle read the Intergroup Principles and Strategic Goals and discussed in detail.

OFFICERS’ REPORTS

CHAIR - Danielle reported there was an issue with the new OA CJI phone app not being hooked up properly but that has been resolved and it is in good working order. Ross asked about modifying the message on the new phone number to include asking for the caller to leave a name and phone number. He also asked for confirmation that Mike M would return calls on any messages left. Ross further asked if the Outreach Committee has permission to provide the new phone number to physicians they are meeting with this month. Danielle confirmed all.

VICE CHAIR

Nick reported he was part of the Committee for Unity Day with Ross, Mike M and North/South Jersey but was unable to attend the event due to a family issue. He heard there was a lot of people there and it went well. Nick also stated the By-Law changes from last year are still pending approval from World Service and he needs to follow up with Karen.

TREASURER

Barbara reported because she was not at last month’s meeting, she has 2 reports. In January we received $671 in donations and literature sales and only had $70 in expenses; February we received a total of $844.57 and a reminder the State of NJ is charging $45 to file electronically so that is a new annual expense going forward. Barbara reminded everyone we are not doing paper hard copy receipts so send her an email if you would like a receipt. If you are sending cash, please make sure the envelope is properly secured as one was received ripped or send a check instead. Nick added he and Bob B. will be reviewing the books in the new few weeks. Danielle asked how much was brought in from Unity Day and Ross explained there was a discussion with North & South Jersey Intergroups that we would be splitting any donations but since CJI paid the $50 that would come out first. Barbara advised there was only about $10 received in total so Ross stated he will inform the other Committee members.

Danielle thanked everyone for their service and asked if we could get the message out to the groups that we need to pay our way. Historically these events and holidays have given us a small increase in donations but people forget when it’s virtual the 7th Tradition still applies or we could actually come out in the red.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lucille stated there was nothing to report at this time.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Marybeth explained she has received all the documents needed from the previous Corresponding Secretary but is still in transition. Also, she has a new computer that is not set up yet but she has been checking emails and there has not been anything about changes to meetings. She will follow up with Bobbi to get up to speed.

WEBMASTER

Alex stated everything is going well with the website and there was nothing to report. Danielle thanked Robin for covering last week and for her past service.

OUTREACH

Mikey reported the Committee has 2 meetings scheduled – one on 3/30 at 2:00 pm for 2 hours which is a virtual presentation to physicians (20) at RWJ who are doing a residency in psychiatry and another one on 4/26 to first year medical students (150) which might be face-to-face but he will not be able to attend that one. Mikey explained they are looking for more diversity including more women and younger people, maybe who were bulimic, etc. Marty added there are more Nurse Practioners doing psychiatry due to the shortage of psychiatrists and the Committee might want to also address them as well. Nick thanked Mikey for his event last year where OA literature was sold/given away as he got a bunch of books, etc., and sent them to someone in CA who could not afford them and he is now in recovery. Danielle added there is confusion in the medical community as to exactly what OA does and doesn’t do so the pamphlets and literature are a good resource. Mikey stated he wants to be very selective as to who speaks at these meetings and really wants new volunteers for more diversity if possible.

12th STEP WITHIN

Ross stated he did not have anything to report at this time.

NEWS - REGION 7

Lee Ann reported the Spring Assembly took place but they had to move it to a virtual event and were able to have enough attendees to vote. There was one motion that was defeated. They are trying to redefine quorum, which is a complex situation. Not as many people are attending the assembly. They are donating $15,000 to OA World Service.

Robin also reported they held elections and Lee Ann was confirmed as Region 7 Recording Secretary, and Tiffany from Virginia was confirmed as Vice Chair. During the Business meeting we discussed clarifying standing rules. Karen B. is rotating out so we will have a new Trustee at the next Assembly. The Intergroup Renewal Committee is doing a 7th Tradition virtual workshop on 3/23. The 12th Step Within Committee had some attendance issues at the Assembly as only 1 person showed up. Robin advised the Convention Planning Committee that she is on agreed on a theme for the convention Sailing Into Recovery – Together We Get Better and it will be held at the Princess Royal. Maybe in 2024 they might consider a different location. Will be first weekend in November as usual. Danielle explained that Intergroup Renewal and 12th Step Within are two different committees. Mike M stated his Committee discussed quorum and is trying to align it with Roberts Rules. It was a complicated discussion and lasted a long time but they could not reach a consensus.

NEWS - WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION (WSO)

Ross announced there is a new 12 Traditions workbook, which was a literature proposal from CJI who sponsored it and he thanked everyone. He said they added questions on principals and also how it pertains to each individual. Frank asked when it was available and Ross confirmed it is on the website now. Danielle stated our intergroup is small but we get a lot done and she is so proud and thanked all.

INSURANCE

Mikey advised we were charged a surcharge for not paying the bill on time. He explained that Barbara helped figure it out and he was able to get it resolved. We deal with an insurance broker/agency – not directly with the insurance company and they made a mistake. Going forward we need to ensure the bill is paid by 12/1. Danielle asked if we could save money by paying the bill online and Mikey said we don’t get the amount until the last minute.

NOMINATIONS

Mikey explained he is not making any nominations and it is difficult for him to continue to be on this Committee. Ross stated the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are done in April and May and the vote is conducted in June. Danielle explained we are also doing our Business motions next month and she is trying to streamline this process and has spoken to the Board.

FUNDRAISING

Lucille reported that Danielle and her had discussed different possibilities for fundraising – auction, games, raffles. The auction and games would have to be in person, which is an issue, plus there would need to be donated prizes, which is also an issue since in the past when requested nothing was donated. The raffle could be done online but it requires a license but wanted to see what kind of interest there would be to do this for fundraising. Gloria explained she just went through the license process in NJ and it was not easy, has restrictions for people with other professional licenses and it took a long time. Ross added he has a problem with online raffles due to people with cross-addictions and does not recommend it. Robin also does not participate in raffles due to cross-addictions concerns. Mikey does not promote online gambling and feels it is too easy for people to get addicted and hopes we can find a better way. Michael stated he gave up on trying to do a 50/50 raffle with his church due to everything involved and there is also an after process - it is not worth it. Marty said he went to a meeting with a game night that was fun and had donated prizes. Marybeth also agreed we are addictive people and there should be something else we could do. Danielle said we will see if there are other alternatives for fundraising.

LITERATURE

Ross reported all the OA literature is gone except for 5 Voices of Recovery books. He made a motion, since the second edition is already online, these be included in the free literature. Lee Ann seconded the motion; a vote was taken and it was approved unanimously. Ross is going to ask his groups if they want to make it free but each group is autonomous. Danielle stated it will be first come, first serve. Danielle and Ross both mentioned there are still pamphlets available.

HOLIDAYS/EVENTS

*Unity Day* – Danielle stated she heard it was great and thanked Ross, Mike M and Nick. Ross added there were 107 attendees.

*Sponsorship Day* – is coming up in August so Danielle reminded Nick, Alex and Joan. Joan offered to be Chair of this Committee on the 3rd weekend in August.

*Idea Day* – it is too early to discuss.

*12th Step Within Day* – too early to talk about.

*Together We Can Recover* – Danielle mentioned this was cancelled last year. Nick stated it was a one-day Retreat and we couldn’t get the venue. Lee Ann reported she has tried to reach them in Easton and has not been successful but will try again. Sima added that she contacted the retreat house in Easton last year and they stated they are booked for a couple of years. She asked if Nick would like to help out on this committee and he agreed.

*Winter Dreams* – Nick stated there was a venue set up but it was cancelled because there was no interest.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Danielle asked if there was any old business or new business and no one responded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS FROM GROUPS

Nick stated all the Metuchen meetings are looking for people to attend as they are now face-to-face. Mike M said the Red Bank meetings – Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturdays – need support at their in-person meetings. Danielle asked Mike if there are any OA walks scheduled in the near future and he said he will check with the Monday night Asbury Park meeting and let her know. Robin announced the Tuesday night meeting in Metuchen is showing a documentary on 3/21 at St. Luke’s Church and there is a flyer. Lee Ann commented her Cranford in-person group meetings are always looking for new people. Joan said her Monday afternoon meeting in Mantoloking is a Big Book meeting and needs support. Marty added his Friday morning meeting does not have an Intergroup rep. but there is someone who attends regularly and would do it but is not from New Jersey and he asked if that is possible. Danielle and Ross both agreed it should be okay based on the By-Laws. Bobbi confirmed there is nothing in the By-Laws saying it is not allowed.

Danielle read Concept 3 and discussed it in detail.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Intergroup Renewal Workshop – March 23rd at 7:30 pm on the 7th Tradition – Bob our Trustee will speak

*General Note* - please remember to send all changes to Marybeth at maryb20260@aol.com. Any flyers or other items to be posted to the CJI website should go to Alex at alexcecchini518@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be on Friday, April 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Danielle mentioned it is the day before the wedding.

Danielle adjourned the meeting early at approximately 8:10 pm after the Serenity prayer.