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

**Monthly Meeting – July 14, 2023**

**MINUTES**

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

INTRODUCTIONS

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

* Alex (Freehold/Monday, Webmaster), Marybeth (Red Bank/Saturday, Corresponding Secretary), Bobbi (Jackson/Friday, WSO delegate), Bobbi L. (Jackson/Friday, WSB Delegate), Babs (Whiting/Saturday), Barbara (Treasurer, Saturday/Metuchen), Frank (Thursday/Literature), Gloria (Lakewood/Wednesday), Joan (Manahawkin/Thursday), Lee Ann (Friday/RWJ, Region 7 Board Member, WSB Delegate), Lusk (Pine Beach/Thursday), Marty (Lawrence Harbor/Sunday), Nick (Vice Chair, Metuchen/Sunday), Ross (Jackson/Wednesday), Sima (Cranford/Saturday), and Mikey (Freehold/Monday, Insurance).

Robin advised we have a quorum to do business, which is 15% of the 42 group meetings, so that means we need 1 Officer and 6 reps present.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Robin advised there are two (2) months minutes (May and June) to be approved. For the May minutes Bobbi said that AA requested us to stop using their literature, not their name, and is not yet official. Mikey moved to approve the May minutes with adjustments, it was seconded by Lusk and it was approved. Mikey moved to approve the June minutes with no changes and Lusk seconded. A vote was taken and the June minutes were approved.

Lee Ann read the Intergroup Principles and Mikey read the Strategic Goals.

OFFICERS’ REPORTS

CHAIR - Robin stated she is open to feedback on how the meeting email and information are sent to everyone. She also stated the Outreach Chair position is open. Marty reminded her we had previously discussed he would contact the Northern and Southern NJ intergroups to see if we could form a statewide Outreach committee but he has not yet done it.

VICE CHAIR

Nick reported Mike was supposed to be coming to this meeting to discuss the phone situation or send a report and he did not receive anything so he will follow up. He said the Sponsorship workshop that he, Alex and Joan is going flawlessly. The flyer is now on our website and the event is on 8/20 from 12:00 to 2:30 pm and there is a 30-minute parking lot, which is an informal get together to get information or ask questions they could not get during the regular Zoom meeting. Nick talked about contacting the facility for Winter Dreams and if anyone would like to join the committee please let him know.

TREASURER

Barbara reported we received $870.44 from meeting and member donations in June, which was pretty good for a summer month. She stated we had expenses of $40.16 for the Website and Zoom account. Barbara said anyone who is looking for reimbursement for the WSBC please submit your expenses as soon as possible. She wants to send a contribution to the WSO. Also, please don’t send cash as it is not safe.

RECORDING SECRETARY

There was no report as Lucille was on a sisters’ trip and unable to attend the meeting.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Marybeth explained there were some issues that were brought to her attention and she has fixed them. The revised meeting list was sent to Alex and she will post it on the website after the meeting. She thanked Bobbi and Robin for letting her know about any discrepancies. She added “C” for closed to all meetings. Several meetings have closed and Marybeth is looking over the anniversary list and working on these items. Alex reminded her we are down to 38 meetings now. Ross said this is important because it may affect the 3 WSBC delegates but Bobbi stated we are okay, however, we cannot have 4 Region 7 reps anymore. Please let her know if there are any changes to meetings.

WEBMASTER

Alex stated there is good news and bad news. Bobbi mentioned the Intergroup Documents on our web page needed to be reworked and Alex was able to do it. She also created another page called “Archive Documents” and shrunk it down to only the past fiscal year. Alex then explained she was unaware we receive messages from the website company and found out we have been using an outdated version, which is costing extra money each month ($7). Alex tried to do the update but afterwards the website wouldn’t work so she reversed it. Alex is going to do some research to find out how to fix this issue.

12 STEP WITHIN

Ross stated he and Lusk and Marty are planning a workshop on 12/12 for 12 Step Within Day and will decide if it should be in-person or virtual.

NEWS - REGION 7

Lee Ann reported the Region 7 Fall Assembly will be virtual via Zoom on 9/29-10/1. Any motions that are going before the Assembly must be submitted before the end of this month (7/31). Any applications for a Board position must also be submitted by that date so check to see if there are any positions available. Robin stated she thought the Corresponding Secretary (Linda) was rotating out and Lee Ann replied that she didn’t know if anyone else was leaving. Lee Ann advised that Linda has offered to help anyone who is interested in the position. She announced the Region 7 Convention will be in Ocean City, MD from 11/3 to 11/5 and information is on the Region 7 website. Lee Ann also stated there is a roundtable event that is being hosted by the Region 7 Chair, Rob, and one is coming up next week – further information is on the Region 7 website. She also mentioned there will be a Zoom event on Abstinence = 3 Legged Stool sponsored by the greater Pittsburg intergroup on 7/30 from 2-4 pm. Lee Ann said to please let her know if you have any questions or comments.

NEWS - WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION (WSO)

Ross stated that he is no longer a WSBC delegate and should be removed from the list. Bobbi reported there is no news from WSO but our policy & procedures manual states that each delegate (and Region 7 reps) needs to present both a written and oral report from the conference. Also, they are supposed to go to different committees – not the same one. If we want to change to a combined report that would have to be brought up and voted on.

BY-LAWS

Nick stated there is nothing to report at this time.

INSURANCE

Mikey reported there is nothing new regarding insurance but if anyone has any questions or needs any information to please contact him.

NOMINATIONS

Ross reported that he and Sima are on the Nominating Committee and there is a nomination for August/ September for Treasurer. He confirmed it is the end of Barbara’s first 2-year term and advised she will be contacted about running again.

FUNDRAISING

Danielle and Lucille were not present to present a report on this subject.

HOLIDAYS/EVENTS

*Unity Day* – February, 2024 so it’s too early to discuss (Mike M and Nick)

*Sponsorship Day* – live on Sunday, 8/20 (afternoon)

*Idea Day* – November. Nick stated we need to figure out if this will be live or via Zoom.

*12th Step Within Day* – Ross previously reported on this event.

RETREATS

*Together We Can Recover* – used to be at end of August or early September (on hold). Lee Ann had done outreach to the facility in PA but there is zero availability at this time so if we want to do this in the future we would need to find out what year they might be available if we want to have it there. Barbara asked Lee Ann if there was any deposit given to this facility before the pandemic and do we have any potential refund due to us but Lee Ann was not involved prior to the pandemic.

*Winter Dreams* – Nick and Bobbi L. are on the committee and Nick is going to reach out to the facility in Long Branch to see if they have availability.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

MEETINGS

Robin asked Bobbi what is the status of updating our meeting list and Bobbi stated there are 7 meetings listed as either face-to-face because there is an address but they are still meeting via telephone or online. Some are listed as hybrid but they are not hybrid and need to be contacted to decide if they are going to either go back to in-person or remain as an online or telephone meeting. Marybeth offered to call people to get a determination one way or another. Bobbi had sent an email to both Robin and Marybeth and said they need to meet in order to decide how and who will handle it. Nick said he would also be willing to help.

CJI – GOOGLE PHONE

Mike M. was not at the meeting to explain if the new phone is working. Robin stated she was able to reach out to Gloria so it seems the phone is working. Ross commented there seems to be a lot of issues with the Google phone and asked if it would be feasible for CJI to purchase a phone and rotate it for 6 months between different people. Robin responded she feels that would present the same problems as the Google phone but since Mike M. is not here this discussion should be postponed. Ross stated that Mike M. has missed several meetings and needs to provide a report. Alex said she helped Mike M. set up the Google phone and it seems to be working. There have been no calls other than Gloria. Mike M. contacted Alex and asked if she knew about problems with the Google phone and she said no. Barbara stated she received a call from someone whose payment had been lost in the mail and they had to go through a lot to get her direct number. People are still seeing the old number everywhere – OA.org, and when it doesn’t work, they freak out so she recommends getting a new phone. Lee Ann said we need rotation of service for this position. She also said we should conduct a validation exercise as to where the old phone number is listed in order to change it. Lee Ann also said we should give the Google phone a little longer to determine if it is working since a call came through today and Robin got it. Sima offered to be the person to respond to any phone calls and Alex said she would work with her to get her set up. She also said the Google phone number has been updated everywhere. Robin said we can discuss again in a month or so to see how it is working in order to give the Google phone a fair trial.

GOALS

Robin asked for everyone to provide ideas on our goals for this year. She stated one of her goals is to see more intergroup reps come to the CJI meetings. Marty mentioned he would also like to see more intergroup reps and added you should not have to be a rep in order to be on a committee. Frank said he could announce at his home meeting that anyone could be a rep for other meetings they attend. Marybeth stated she would like to see the message of OA really get out there and for the addiction of food is a serious issue and to get the word out more. Robin asked if we should go back to having personal retreats as we used to have them twice a year. Lee Ann said she would be very supportive of any in-person retreats and events. It would be a multi-year commitment to find a venue and put a deposit down for a future date and we would need good continuity to follow through and she is happy to help. Sima stated before we work on in-person events we should have more in-person meetings. A lot of places have closed or are not willing to host in-person meetings. There are no big meetings that she is aware of since she has been back in OA over the past 10 years. We don’t have “We Care” books anymore so there are not more lists of who is attending. Bobbi said WSO is working on reaching out and the idea is to have a sub-committee within the intergroup to visit group meetings that are too small. Big meetings were not in our intergroup – they were either in North Jersey or West Jersey. She also said in-person meetings are more important for people who need recovery. We need to attend other meetings – either online or in person – and talk about what happens in intergroup.

Lusk would like to see what we can do to encourage sponsorship. We are having an event in August but people call him all the time looking for a male or female sponsor and there is no one available. This is not a good message for newcomers. Marty stated he needed to apologize because he was supposed to do a survey on hybrid meetings but he has not spent the time to do it. There to a lot of people who are on Zoom meetings that are not from New Jersey and are committed to the group and do service regularly. Plus, there are great speakers who can participate in Zoom meetings. We have been offered the opportunity to participate with North Jersey CJI on a sponsor list if it doesn’t matter where they are located. Ross added that we used to have 20 in-person meetings of 40+ people and depending on what our current count of in-person meetings is and it could be closed to 18 now. He sees a decline in the evening meetings but there does seem to be some growth in face-to-face meetings. Mikey talked about not having enough reps at our intergroup because most of the Zoom meetings don’t have reps and maybe we should contact the online meetings about it. Robin asked everyone to check out our current meeting list. Gloria said the Zoom meetings don’t have a separate rep so they represent more than one group. She said people are tied at night when they get home and maybe we can shorten the CJI monthly meeting. Joan said she goes to several Zoom meetings and face-to-face meetings and many people don’t want to come to the CJI meeting because it’s on a Friday night. People are getting older and are tired and she said there is nothing that hasn’t been done before so just keep doing what we’ve been doing.

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

The next meeting will be on Friday, August 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Robin adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm after the Serenity prayer.