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

**Monthly Meeting – August 11, 2023**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, Robin B., after a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Unity with Diversity policy was read by Robin. Marybeth read OA’s Tradition 8 and Concept 8.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

* Mikey (Freehold/Monday, Insurance), Babs (Whiting/Saturday), Gloria (Lakewood/Wednesday), Marybeth (Red Bank/Saturday, Corresponding Secretary), Jill (Lakehurst/Tuesday), Sima (Cranford/Saturday), Barbara (Treasurer), Lee Ann (Sunday/RWJ, Region 7 Board Member, WSB Delegate), Ross (Jackson/Wednesday), Bobbi L. (Jackson/Friday, WSB Delegate), Alex (Freehold/Monday, Webmaster).

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 was a correction needed under the Google Phone section - it should be “knew” rather than “new.” Marybeth also mentioned that some side comments should not be included in the minutes and she would like her personal comments stricken. Ross stated on the section regarding Nominations it says Barbara’s 2-year term was ending but Barbara confirmed January will actually be the start of her second year as Treasurer due to a transition period. Sima moved to approve the July minutes with these changes and Lee Ann seconded. A vote was taken and the July minutes were approved.

Ross read the Intergroup Principles and Gloria read the Strategic Goals.

OFFICERS’ REPORTS

CHAIR - Robin stated she had previously brought up the subject of changing the monthly CJI meeting to Sunday afternoon. Robin advised that although she has an open mind it may not be a good idea since we may lose some people in the process. It will be discussed later during Old Business.

VICE CHAIR

Robin reported for Nick who has been working on the Sponsorship workshop with Alex and Joan and the event on Sunday, 8/20 so please plan on attending. She also reported Nick is also working on the Winter Dreams event.

TREASURER

Barbara reported we received $710.15 from meeting and member donations in July, which was pretty good for a summer month. She stated we had the standard expenses of $40.16 for the Website and Zoom account.

RECORDING SECRETARY

There was no report as Lucille was on vacation and unable to attend the meeting.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Marybeth stated she finalized the anniversary list and sent it to Robin, Nick, Barbara and Alex to meetings. Unfortunately, she had to remove the East Brunswick, Red Bank Thursday night and Freehold Thursday night meetings so it’s a smaller list. She is still working on some of the discrepancies. The Princeton Saturday morning meeting was change to online just for the summer and the Saturday Red Bank location was changed to the Main Building. Please let her know about any meeting changes.

WEBMASTER

Alex stated everything is going well with the website and she made some changes to tweak the look of the website like the banner across the top. She found out the CJI logo (which has the OA logo within it) needs to be reviewed and approved every 2 years. Alex confirmed this was done by our previous Chair Danielle in September of 2022 so we are good until September of 2024. Still have an issue with the outdated background system and she reached out but has not been able to get an answer yet but will keep trying.

OUTREACH

Mikey reported that Judy had called him about an interest in being Outreach Chair. He asked if anyone knew Judy or being Outreach Chair. She mentioned Frank in her message so Mikey will follow up with him. Alex asked about some outdated information on the CJI website and asked if Mikey would review it and get back to her.

12 STEP WITHIN DAY

Ross stated this year 12 Step Within Day is on a Tuesday and he spoke with Lusk and Marty and they are planning to ask the Lakehurst meeting if they might host it in-person on 12/12/23.

NEWS - REGION 7

Lee Ann reported the Region 7 Fall Assembly will be virtual via Zoom on 9/29-10/1. There are currently about 20 people registered which is good for quorum. Lee Ann stated there will be several motions and they have updated the by-laws and policies & procedures manual. There’s a motion for a new Apprentice Treasurer position that would work with the Treasurer for one year and then have the option to run. Also, a Quorum motion for the Assembly to change it to 30% of eligible reps with reps from 3 or more states. There is a budget motion for committee expenses and a 12 Step motion on speaker requirements to have 6 months of abstinence. The Region 7 Convention is the first weekend in November and it is their last year at the current venue in Ocean City, MD so a decision will need to be made whether to look for a new venue or not. Also, there is a roundtable event on 8/15 about Abstinence = 3-Legged Stool. Lee Ann added to please let her know if you have any questions or comments.

NEWS - WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION (WSO)

Bobbi reported during the WSBC they approved two new coins to celebrate abstinence for 45 and 50 years and they are available for purchase on the website. If you use the OA.org website there is a survey asking for input and suggestions. Go to the Menu in upper right corner, then select News & Events and then click on A Step Ahead to take the survey. Bobbi did go in and made some comments on difficulty editing meeting information and also accessing and finding documents. A letter was published by the Board of Trustees on the Unity and Diversity policy and was published in A Step Ahead. The sub-committee was distressed to hear that some OA members, while sharing their life realities, were told their experiences were outside issues and were shut down in meetings. These were from some specific focus groups. All OA members in every meeting need to feel safe to share their experience, strength and hope and not told they were an outside issue. Marybeth made a motion to post the letter on our website and Mikey seconded. It was approved by majority. Sima asked if it could also be sent out to members via email and Robin stated she would do so. Ross stated we are still waiting for 2 reports from the WSBC – Lee Ann and Mike M. Ross added he was not sure of Mike M’s status as he believes he has missed 3 consecutive meetings. Lee Ann stated her report is ready and she will give it anytime.

BY-LAWS

Nick stated there is nothing to report at this time.

INSURANCE

Mikey reported they are closing more and more face-to-face meetings so he has not received many requests for insurance certificates. He reminded everyone if there are any questions or needs regarding insurance to please contact him.

NOMINATIONS

Ross reported there is a nomination held in August and September for Treasurer. He officially nominated Barbara for a second term and she accepted. Ross that Region 7 Reps election is in January which would mean nominations would be in November and December. Ross stated the By-Laws do not indicate the nomination months for Region 7 Reps and maybe we want to change that in 2024. In October and November are the nominations for World Service delegates and Ross needs to know the terms for all current Officer positions and is willing to do the work to keep track of it.

HOLIDAYS/EVENTS

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

*Sponsorship Day* – live on Sunday, 8/20 (afternoon). Alex reported for the committee that Joan did a great job putting together the agenda. It begins at 12:00 noon with 3 speakers talking for 20 minutes each on how they sponsor. Then panelists will address some prepared questions and then there will be opening sharing. At 2:30 to 3:00 pm they will stay on to speak with anyone who is looking for a sponsor or has any questions.

*Idea Day* – November. Nick was not in attendance to provide an update.

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

RETREATS

*Winter Dreams* – Nick is working on getting a venue.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

CJI MONTHLY MEETING

Robin wanted to discuss the idea of changing the monthly CJI meeting from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. Marybeth mentioned that feedback from her meeting thought Sunday night may be better than Sunday morning. Gloria stated she seemed to be the only one addressing the Jewish members who cannot attend on Friday nights. She did not know whether or not they would even come on Sundays because they are so busy with family. Glorida stated they might get involved more if they feel like a part of the group but maybe not. Ross stated we have been through this before about changing the meeting date. He felt that we have not had a problem with a quorum and if it is not broke don’t fix it. Barbara said she tries to work around the Friday night meetings and unless there is a wedding or family function she attends and was not in favor of a change. Sima stated she is very familiar with Orthodox Jews and it’s not just Friday nights that are a problem – there are many other holidays involved. She suggested maybe they could read the minutes and see if there are any committees they are interested in or contact Joan or someone to be their liaison for questions or comment. Bobbi added she is fond of the Lakewood community and has spoken there and had several sponsees from there and has reached out to some people. Many of the women have large families and/or work and are busy doing lots of errands so there would probably not be a good attendance on Sundays. She was not optimistic it would have any impact on attendance. Robin stated we have a good group attending on a regular basis and people reach out to her to advise they are unable to attend, which means they take it seriously. She also attends another meeting on Sunday nights for a very long time and would not be available and afternoons she is busy cooking dinner. Robin said she is going to leave this idea alone for now.

Sima stated she is involved in meetings from North Jersey and received a letter that is supposed to be read at three meetings. She proceeded to read the WSO Annual Appeal Letter regarding contributions and how it is put to work and ways to contribute. Lee Ann reported she had confirmed this was legitimate through the Region 7 trustees to make sure people remember Tradition 7. Sima thought all the reps should read this letter at their group meeting. Barbara reported CJI sent an annual contribution to WSO and Region 7 but she would check to see how long ago that was made. Lee Ann had a concern about the fact she never received this email. Bobbi stated it is published in the WSO newsletter.

CJI – GOOGLE PHONE

Mikey asked if we have confirmed the new phone number is working and Robin confirmed it was because she received a call and responded promptly. Alex explained our old phone number with OA.org was removed and a link to our website with the number and after much hard work she believes our new phone number is listed on all our pages. Robin feels the new Google phone is working. Sima offered to help answer the phone and Alex will follow up.

Sima also offered her services to the North Jersey group that helps people find sponsors.

Ross mentioned Thursday night Zoom meeting has a flyer on the website as they have transitioned to a Step & Tradition writing meeting.

*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, September 8, 2023, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

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