

Greater Pittsburgh OA Intergroup Zoom Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2024 Minutes taken by Sheree C.

Serenity Prayer

Reading of the Eleventh Concept of OA Service

ANNIVERSARIES SINCE LAST MEETING:

ROLL CALL: (19 people present, 19 voting members)

3 Executive board: **Ro M.** (Chair), **Dee C.** (Treasurer), **Sheree C.** (Secretary)

6 Standing Chair(s)/Regional Reps/WSBC Delegates: **Debbie B.** (12 Step Within), **Liv S.** (Speakers), **Beth A.** (VOR Editor), **Kristi K.** (R7 Rep), **Linda A.** (R7 Rep), **Tricia S.** (WSBC Delegate)

Jessica F. (Webmaster) (Voting for Thu. 6p Bellevue)

10 Reps: **Melanie G.** (Mon 7p Sewickley), **Lynn W.** (Mon 7:30p Lower Burrell), **Jeannie M.** (Tue 10a Beaver), **Janine C.** (Tue 7p Plum), **Ida L.** (Wed 5:30p Rostraver), **Jessica F.** (Thu 6p Bellevue), **Judy D.** (Sat 9a Pgh-Shadyside), **Beth D.** (Sat 10a Monroeville), **Mary Ann C.** (10:30a Castle Shannon), **Linda S.** (Sat 10:30a Scottsdale)

MINUTES: Motion made/accepted to approve September minutes as submitted.

REPORTS (Executive Board): All officer's reports reviewed.

Chair (Ro M): Report reviewed. Bylaw rewrite is completed. Survey will be issued November 15. Still looking for a few meetings to be visited to send IG reps.

Treasurer (Dee C.) Financials Reviewed. There were two Paypal contributions that were added to the balance after the report, which would improve the month's total contributions. WSO will be changing the contribution from 60/30/10% to 50/40/10%. That change will use the savings from changing our phone service. Groups will determine contribution rates. Q: What is the average amount needed per month to cover expenses? A: \$770

Secretary (Sheree C): Report Reviewed. We have had 15 email inquiries and 12 phone inquiries so far this year.

REPORTS (Standing Committee Chairs): All chairs' reports reviewed.

12th Step Chair (Debbie B.): Report Reviewed. No questions.

Speaker's Bureau Chair (Liv S.): Report reviewed. There have been 3 requests for list, 2 speakers added. Goals are to make groups aware of the Speaker's Bureau and to revise the list.

VOR Editor (Beth A): Report Reviewed. Last month it was suggested Beth interview attendees from last year's OA birthday celebration. Interviewed 3 people for Q1 2025. Articles/news items can be sent any time before the deadline. You don't need to be a writer, Beth is willing to edit for you. Deadline for Q1 is Dec 14.

REPORTS (Other Trusted Servants): All trusted servants' reports reviewed.

Region 7 (Kristi K): Report Reviewed. Assigned to the 12 Step Within Committee.

(Linda A.): Report Reviewed. Assigned to the R7 Intergroup Renewal committee. Met last week. Working on a Sponsorship Zoom meeting, and will have a questionnaire for each region. Consent Agenda will be explained to PnP committee. Region 4 was dissolved for a lack of involvement, and the areas were absorbed into adjacent regions.

WSBC (Tricia S): Report reviewed. World Service will no longer do inhouse translation, but will get translators. Tricia explained the need for an Outreach chair & committee, especially for outreach to higher education institutions. She asked for help to find search words to find "outreach" on the OA website and other search engines. Contact her for more information.

Webmaster (Jessica): report reviewed. Website has been completely overhauled. Jessica is also asking that groups be very careful using images on flyers to make certain that they are copyright free images. Also, we cannot use the OA logo. However, we are licensed to use the GPIOA logo.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **VOR Editor Role/ Beth A.:** In July, Beth started making a list of 2025 VOR themes. She is also searching the R7, R5, and WSO websites for information or events that would support the month's theme. She begins the next issue the day after releasing the current issue and starts layout immediately. She also uses images from Pixabay, which is a source of royalty/copyright free images. She has also checked out other regions' newsletters for ideas. Articles are due by the 14th of the month before VOR quarterly release. She plans to try to attend more events in order to write a highlight article on the event. She has had to learn the new MailChimp format, but is now comfortable and likes the new platform.
- **A Fresh Face to Our Website/Jessica F.:** Jessica unveiled the updated website. She especially explained the new meeting list and that it is important to click on the meeting itself to get more information. She also explained how to navigate the new website and its various menus.
- **Face-to-Face Meetings:**
 - New Face-to-Face meetings in Sharpsburg and Scottsdale
 - Looking for members interested in potential face-to-Face meetings near McKeesport
 - To expand the number of GPI Face-to-Face meetings, Kristi is looking at holding road shows – why to have them, how to set them up, in areas where there are not current F2F meetings, such as a library or other public location.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - IDEA Event Nov. 16, 2-4 pm, sponsored by the Lower Burrell Zoom meeting
 - Membership survey will be released on November 15.
 - There will be the annual Holiday meetings sponsored by the Aspinwall meeting.
 - The website will show meetings that are/are not meeting on holidays. If your meeting normally meets on these days, please let Jessica know the status of your meeting.
 - Attendees are invited to join GPI meetings at 1:45 and to stay after the conclusion of the discussion for fellowship
- **GPI Retreat**
 - We need to assess the willingness of members to play a role in supporting such an event. We have a possible location for a retreat, but no chair. If you are interested in helping in putting together a retreat, but can't chair, please contact Ro at chair@gpioa.org.
 - Interest in disbursing retreat scholarship fund: Do we want to continue to hold these funds or refund them to those who gave them? Possibly ask if people would like to make those funds available for other OA events, such as Region or OA World Service Conventions. There was discussion on the benefits of making these funds available for extra-GPI events. Conclusion was to reach back to people to ask if we can redirect the funds for another OA event or refund it at this time, or to continue to hold it for a future retreat. It was also suggested that we set a deadline to either hold a retreat within a specific amount of time (ex: 3-4 years out), after which this money would be opened up for scholarships to other OA events if we had not held a retreat by that time.
 - A further point was made that WS Conventions will only be held every five years, and that it will be held in August 2025 in Orlando, but the consensus was that we could not make a decision in time for this event.
 - Another proposal was to use the money to lower the individual cost of a local retreat across the board.
- **Service Opportunities**
 - Looking for meetings to sponsor Recovery from Relapse event
 - Looking for veteran IRs willing to mentor new IRs. Jessica indicated that she is willing.
 - We are still looking for attendees to reach out to meetings without IRs to encourage GPI attendance.
- **Other Issues & Concerns:**
 - Cleveland IG is holding an in person IDEA day event November 16 from 9:30-12:30, with a fellowship lunch to follow. Region 7 is also having a virtual event on Sunday November 17 in the afternoon. That information can be found on the Region 7 website.

ITEMS TO TAKE BACK TO MEETINGS:

- Follow up Email will be sent with take-aways.

Meeting adjourned with OA Responsibility Pledge.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2024, 2pm, same Zoom info.

GPI Reports for November 10, 2024

VACANT: Vice Chair, Outreach, Events, Region 7 Reps-2/ Alts-2, WSBC Delegates-2 / Alts-2

Chair (Ro M.): October Accomplishments

- Secured the elections of officer, chairs and representatives
- (With Policy Committee) Completed GPI bylaw edits
- Drafted a questionnaire to survey member needs not yet met

Chair (Ro M.): November Goals

- Meet with Debbie B. on Chair 101
- Begin membership survey
- (With Policy Committee) Begin PnP edits resulting from bylaw changes
- Continue to request help from IRs to reach out to meetings without IRs to attend GPI

Treasurer (Dee C.): November Report:

- Current financial spreadsheet available at <https://gpioa.org/docs/gpimtg/2024/10Financials.pdf>
- Financial Facts: Report Date: November 1, 2024, GPI - November 10, 2024 Meeting
 - Balance: \$10,982.76
 - Receipts vs Expenses: -\$ 829.82
 - October Contributions: \$ 361.07
 - 2024 Total Contributions \$7,530.54 YTD
 - Average Per Month YTD: \$ 753.00
 - Unrestricted Fund Balance: \$6,198.76

Secretary (Sheree C): October Accomplishments

- All routine tasks completed in cooperation with Ro, Jessica and Secretarial Committee
- Facilitated replacement for committee member seeking to withdraw.
- Followed up on email request for OA information via email. No response received.
- Dawn A. & Frank G. responded to email requests for meeting information as of June 2024.
 - 2024-0 Jan, 1 Feb, 2 Mar, 6 Apr, 1 May, 0 June, 0 July, 2 Aug, 0 Sep, 3 Oct
- Shirley checked voicemail & sent out meeting packets as of June 2024.
 - 2024- 1 Jan, 0 Feb, 2 Mar, 5 Apr/May, 0 June, 2 July, 1 Aug, 1 Sep, 0 Oct

Secretary (Sheree C): November Goals

- Make necessary updates to lists and documents post GPI election
- Be available as needed, with emphasis on supporting Chair and Webmaster.

12th Step Within (Debbie B): October Accomplishments:

- Recruited Monday, 7:30pm Lower Burrell zoom meeting to hold IDEA Day event on November 16, 2024, from 2-4 pm. Obtained speakers for the event. Requested posting of event flyer on Region 7 and World Service websites.
- Enlisted new members for the 12th Step Within committee.

- There were no requests concerning Temporary Sponsors: Newcomers' First Twelve Days. Link is available on our website. Contact the 12th Step Within chair if you need help.

12th Step Within (Debbie B): November Goals

- Confirm 12th Step Within meetings for 12/12 with local Thursday meetings.
- Set up committee meetings
- Confirm Monroeville Saturday is interested in sponsoring the OA Birthday celebration.

Speaker's Bureau (Liv S.): October Accomplishments:

- There were three requests for the list; two new speakers were added.

Speaker's Bureau (Liv S.): November Goals:

- Goal is to continue to announce at meetings that the list is available upon request and that OA members can be added to the list if they would like to be called to speak.

VOR Editor (Beth A.): October Accomplishments:

- Interviewed attendees from last year's OA Birthday for Q1 2025 VOR article

VOR Editor (Beth A.): November Goals:

- Continued working on layout for next edition - 2025 Q1 with the theme "The 9 Tools of Recovery." It is never too early to submit something. You do not have to be a writer -submit your ideas to vor_editor@gpioa.org and ask the editor to touch it up. Submissions can be anonymous by request!
- Continuing to type up submissions for 2025 Q1 VOR

Region 7 Representative (Kristi K.): October/November Accomplishments and Goals:

- Brainstorming with GPI Chair on methods for presenting the *Region 7 Benefits of Face to Face Meetings* workshop.
- Sent the weblink for the R7 Speakers request form to a speaker getter.

Region 7 Representative (Kristi K.): December Goals:

- Continue annual update of R7 Speakers List. Work must be completed by Dec. 31st. This is a R7 Twelve Step Within (TSW) Committee assignment.

Region 7 Representative (Linda A.): October Accomplishments:

- Sent Sponsorship Workshop script to the Intergroup Renewal members
- Attended Intergroup Renewal Committee Zoom meeting (meeting was held after this report was submitted.)

Additional Information about the Fall Region 7 Assembly:

- **Business Meetings**
 - Bob L., our Region 7 liaison, reported that the usual percentages for donations are going to be changed. Currently it is 60% to Intergroup, 30% to World Service, and 10% to Region 7. They will change to 50% to Intergroup, 40% to World Service, and Region 7 will stay the same at 10%. Since this change may affect all the intergroup budgets, Bob L. suggested we take this into consideration. He said we could call him with questions.
 - On the World Service website, there is a new type of meeting - Neuro diversity.
 - Allan, the Finance and Bylaws Committee chairperson, reported that \$15,000 will be sent to the World Service Office.
 - The Convention Committee's chairperson said that 140 members have already registered, and the early bird registration discount is running out.
 - FUN FACT: The raffle baskets and/or raffles are now being called "Chance Auctions."
- **Outreach:** Mark, the chairperson, said a survey will be going out to the Intergroups. At the World Service level, a letter is being developed to be sent to colleges and universities concerning Young People. There is a Collegiate Recovery group online.

- There will be a Virtual Region 7 Spring Assembly on March 29, 2025, and a Virtual World Service Business Conference on May 4-10, 2025.
- The Parliamentarian Moment was exciting for me, since she explained a procedure that can speed up the process of voting on Bylaw or Policy & Procedure Manual amendments. It is referred to as Consent Agendas or Consent Calendars.
- Administrative Motions:
 - The motion to send \$15,000 to WSO passed.
 - The Motion to accept the region 7 Jan.-Dec. 2025 budget passed
 - LeeAnn S. was elected as Chairperson
 - Bob L. was affirmed as the region 7 liaison Trustee
 - The Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary positions are all open.
- **Announcements:** There is a Region 7 Facebook page and a google group, as well.

More will follow at the December Intergroup meeting including Region Chairs Panel Discussion and Carrying the Message.

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) Delegate (Patricia S.): October Accomplishments:

- Medical/Professional Subcommittee (10/9 progress reports): Asked how to get PI/PO manual in other languages? OUTREACH COMMITTEE: download at oa.org: 3pg Guide: “Assisting Staff Responsible for Student Well-being at Higher Education Institutions.”
- PI/PO Committee (10/16): 5 attended. Nothing of major importance
- Next goal: 2-3 pg. guidelines/resources in different languages
- Audit review: 5 left to review by December meeting
- Suggestions to search oa.org, go to: *Resources, PI/PO, or Professional*

WSBC Delegate (Patricia S.): November Goals

- Med/Prof Subcommittee (11/6): No work assigned
- PI/PO Committee: 11/20

GPI Webmaster Special Worker (Jessica F): November Accomplishments

- Rolled out new GPI website
- Researched whether converting website to WordPress is worth the trouble
 - WordPress is meant to handle blogs, although it can also handle static websites
 - Currently we’re doing outreach to newcomers via our website, and our members via MailChimp and our website (newcomers can join our email list via MailChimp should they choose)
 - Adding Facebook and Instagram for publicizing events beyond our website seems an easier, more economical way to reach both our membership and the general public than converting our website to a blog at this point
 - If this changes in the future, we can always convert to WordPress then
- Answered additional questions raised by R7 chair regarding internet security and image copyright
- All other routine duties completed, nothing more to report

GPI Webmaster Special Worker (Jessica F): November Goals

- Finalize answers to questions 4, 5 & 6 raised by R7 chair regarding internet security
- Start GPI Facebook page
- Research how to start an anonymous Instagram page
- Work with Exec Board & secretarial committee member to complete contingency planning and secure GPI documentation
- (ongoing) Move publicly available archive documents to GPI website from google as appropriate
- (ongoing) Work with Secretary and Treasurer to consolidate google archives into our nonprofit google address
- (future goal) review GPI physical documents & scan for online archive