

Greater Pittsburgh OA Intergroup Zoom Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2024 Minutes taken by Sheree C.

Serenity Prayer

Reading of the Twelfth Concept of OA Service

ANNIVERSARIES SINCE LAST MEETING: None

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

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

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

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

11 Reps: **Melanie G.** (Mon 7p Sewickley), **Lynn W.** (Mon 7:30p Lower Burrell), **Linda C.** (Tue 7p Butler), **Janine C.** (Tue 7p Plum), **Ida L.** (Wed 5:30p Rostraver), **Jessica F.** (Thu 6p Bellevue), **Shannon P.** (Sat 9a Bridgeport WV), **Judy D.** (Sat 9a Pgh-Shadyside), **Beth D.** (Sat 10a Monroeville), **Mary Ann C.** (10:30a Castle Shannon), **Juanita K.** (Sat 10:30a Erie)

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

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

Chair (Ro M): Report reviewed. Survey results to be shared later in the meeting. Tues or Wed. 10a meetings: want to check on if the meetings are still operating, as the meeting contact is ill..

Treasurer (Dee C.) Financials Reviewed. Website work increased our expenses. November contributions were low because checks were received after the report was drafted. There has been some difficulty in getting the mail in P.O. box picked up. If that is the case in December, Dee will pick it up herself to be sure that all contributions are recorded for the end of year report. Dee will put her home address in the chat to allow people to send contributions directly to her if they wish.

Secretary (Sheree C): Report Reviewed.

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

12th Step Chair (Debbie B.): Report Reviewed. There is 12th step within day information on the OA.org website.

Speaker's Bureau Chair (Liv S.): Report reviewed. There have been 2 requests for the list, no new speakers added. Goal to continue to add speakers to the list

VOR Editor (Beth A): Report Reviewed. Beth is working on some format changes to keep the VOR fresh.

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

Region 7 (Kristi K): Report Reviewed. Kristi was absent.

(Linda A.): Report Reviewed. Linda will be presenting something later in the meeting, and wants you to have paper and pen available.

WSBC (Tricia S): Report reviewed. No November committee meeting but looking forward to one in January.

Webmaster (Jessica): report reviewed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Speakers Chair/Liv S. Position Spotlight:** Liv gave a bit of her personal story, and then shared on the position as the Speaker's Chair
- **Region 7 Convention/Speeches/Liv S.:** Liv shared about the speakers at Convention and talked about possibly putting out-of-area speakers on the list.

- **2025 Budget/Dee C.:**
 - Shared the 2025 Budget, explaining that this is considered a balanced budget.
 - World Service has suggested that contributions be split 50% GPI, 40%WS, 10% Region 7. This will change our contributions to World Service, as well as our incoming contributions. We know we can meet the 2025 budget because of our unrestricted funds, but may need to take a closer look at our expenses next year to be sure that we are financially sound. The meetings must decide individually whether to adopt the new recommendations in their group conscience.
 - World Service is suggesting that members contribute \$5/week.
 - A few survey respondents said their groups do not contribute - just a reminder that our 7th tradition says that we must be self-supporting
 - For info on making contributions, see 7th Tradition button on the GPI home page (24% of our survey respondents said they have used the website 7th Tradition info)
 - For suggestions on collecting contributions for online and telephone meetings, see Meetings tab, Strong Meeting drop down on the GPI website
 - **MOTION to approve budget as presented was made and approved.**

- **Survey Results:**
 - 41 responses out of 101 on our email list - 40% response
 - 78% said they have attended an intergroup meeting
 - Of those who have not attended, 12% said someone else attends for their meeting and 12% said they just read the meeting recaps
 - 88% make 7th Tradition contributions
 - 73% have attended events sponsored by GPI or individual meetings within GPI, with highest attendance at IDEA event (29%), annual Thanksgiving gratitude meeting (22%) and Unity Day (22%)
 - Those who haven't attended indicate their schedules are too full (12%) or locations aren't convenient (10%)
 - 90% read the VOR
 - Respondents indicate the most useful information are member stories (81%) and recovery how-to's (56%)
 - Those who don't read say they get the info they need from other sources
 - 61% have used the Speakers list
 - Our respondents use the website for meeting info (85%), calendar (75%) and service information, e.g. intergroup meeting materials (29%)
 - Thoughts on what GPI could do for members include continue outreach, recommend service, focus on helping meetings be strong - good recovery, lots of participation in service
 - There was some discussion about encouraging members to sign up for the email list, and questions on how we can reach people, such as social media. That is being worked on.

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - IDEA Event Nov. 16, 2-4 pm, sponsored by the Lower Burrell Zoom meeting & Thanksgiving gratitude meeting sponsored by Aspinwall Zoom meeting (recaps)
 - December 12: 12th Step Within Events: Bellevue Face-to-Face and Meadville Zoom meetings (both Thursday, 6 PM)
 - December 25 & January 1: Holiday meetings sponsored by Aspinwall Zoom meeting (Wednesday, 10am)
 - January 9: Thursday 6pm Bellevue 2nd Anniversary meeting (Thursday, 6pm), will be a candlelight gratitude meeting
 - January 18: OA Birthday Monroeville Face-to-Face meeting (Saturday 9-12 am)

- Looking for meetings to sponsor Recovery from Relapse event
- **Service Opportunities**
 - Volunteer to play some role in a retreat (fall 2025 or 2026)
 - Participate in a subcommittee that would propose resolution of restricted funds questions - **email chair@gpioa.org if you want to participate**, especially If you have strong feelings about the issue.
 - How long should we wait to have a GPI retreat before taking action on the scholarship funds?
 - What action should we take if there is no retreat by that time? Return the money to contributors? Apply the funds as scholarships or discounts to other OA events at Region 7 or World Service? Apply the funds in some other way?
 - How should we take this action? Reach out to contributors by phone or email and give them a choice? Make a blanket decision by GPI attendees? Other?
 - Support new meetings in Sharpsburg and Scottdale (Scottdale is a women-only meeting)
 - Start a Face-to-Face meeting near McKeesport
 - Apply for open positions: Outreach, Events, Vice Chair
 - Looking for meetings to sponsor Recovery from Relapse event
- **Carrying the Message Presentation & Exercise/Linda A.:** Linda shared some excerpts from the OA 12&12. She then gave a writing assignment to write 3 sentences answering the question of someone who says “You look wonderful, how are you doing it:” Answers were then shared.
- **Other Issues & Concerns:**
 - Jessica would like further feedback on gpioa.org website improvements in two areas: The Newcomers OA Definitions: Any glaring omissions? Under Resources/Printables, there is information we would have previously sent out in the quarterly packets. Anything that is missing there? Email webmaster@gpioa.org with any items.
 - Managing disruptive behavior at meetings, special care for young members
 - Join GPI meetings at 1:45 and to stay after the conclusion of the discussion for fellowship
 - Other: Any Tuesday or Wednesday meetings: Calendar changes over the holidays, please let Jessica know.

ITEMS TO TAKE BACK TO MEETINGS:

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

Meeting adjourned with OA Responsibility Pledge.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2025, 2-3:30pm, same Zoom info.