

Greater Pittsburgh OA Intergroup Zoom Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2025, Minutes taken by Sheree C.

Serenity Prayer

Reading of the Third Concept of OA Service

ANNIVERSARIES SINCE LAST GPI MEETING: Linda A. 40 years in Program, 39 years abstinent

ROLL CALL: (20 people present, 19 voting members)

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

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

12 Reps: **Melanie G.** (Mon 7p Sewickley), **Lynn W.** (Mon 7:30p Lower Burrell), **Linda C.** (Tue 7p Butler), **Janine C.** (Tue 7p Plum), **Susan C.** (Thu 6p Pleasant Hills), **Shannon P.** (Sat 9a Bridgeport WV), **Judy D.** (Sat 9a Pgh-Shadyside), **Beth D.** (Sat 10a Monroeville), **Linda S.** (Sat 10a Scottdale), **Mary Ann C.** (10:30a Castle Shannon), **Chris S.** (Sat 10:30a Cranberry), **Juanita K.** (Sat 10:30a Erie)

1 Visitor: **Linda A.**

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

REPORTS (Executive Board): All officers' reports reviewed.

Chair (Ro M): Report reviewed. Poster/pamphlets mailed to 32 colleges; pamphlets mailed to 68 AHN doctors. On retreat scholarship funds, Dee will be talking to Finance Committee at April meeting, but ad hoc committee position is to hold the funds until 2026. This month we will ask for help to poll membership for retreat interest. Policy committee is continuing the process of changing PnP and Bylaws to conform to WSO guidelines.

Treasurer (Dee C.) Financials reviewed. February report given. Our contributions for the year are down considerably, and we have had some yearly expenses come due such as liability insurance, P.O. box rental, Pair networks (web hosting), and domain name renewal. We do have a balance above our prudent reserve but it is shrinking. Q from chair: "Have the members seen a lower level of contributions in our meetings?" A from IRs: Less people attending meetings. Less meetings at F2F due to weather. Zoom meetings may not contribute as much as F2F meetings. Some Zoom meetings have many out of US members. One meeting has had a series of Zoom intruders that discourage attendance. Some give directly to WSO and GPI rather than to their meetings, and there was a suggestion to give to their home group. Some groups give quarterly. Special events need to ask for donations. Lack of willingness to give service as a group treasurer

Secretary (Sheree C): Report Reviewed.

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

12th Step Chair (Debbie B.): Report Reviewed. thanks to those who attended Unity Day.

Speaker's Bureau Chair (Liv S.): Report reviewed. No questions.

VOR Editor (Beth A): Report Reviewed. Still taking submissions on the theme of "Spiritual Condition" until March 15. Got permission for use of WSO articles. If you are not on the email list for VOR contributions, please let Beth know.

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

Region 7 (Kristi K): Report Reviewed. Absent

WSBC (Tricia S): Report reviewed. WSO has an online welcome room newcomers might find helpful

Webmaster (Jessica): Report reviewed. Absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Request to Determine Likely Number of 2026 Retreat Attendees:** Send estimated number of people from meeting who would attend a retreat in 2026. Location to be within 50 miles of Pittsburgh. Request sent out to group reps. Only reply once, at your home meeting. Response is needed by March 17.
- **Events & Activities:**
 - February 23: OA Unity Day sponsored by our 12th Step Within Committee Recap): About 13 attendees did readings on Unity from the Voice of Recovery book, and several people shared. At 2:30 did the OA Promise with the rest of the world.
 - March 29: Recovery from Relapse Saturday 9AM Zoom meeting: Bridgeport and Shadyside meetings will be merging.
- **Service Opportunities**
 - Have your meeting sponsor a Recovery from Relapse event/12th Step Within committee
 - Write a Q2 VOR article on “My Spiritual Condition”. Deadline is March 15 for submissions.
 - Staff an OA booth at the American Health Care Where to turn Fair, date TBD, along with a summer health fair at Pittsburgh Mercy Health. We will need volunteers if we want to staff a booth/table.
 - Join our Speakers’ list, or help with the Speakers Bureau committee to update the list.
 - Support new meetings in Sharpsburg, Scottdale (Scottdale is a women-only meeting) and Ligonier
 - Volunteer to play some role in a retreat (2026) If interested, reach out to Ro. A chair is still needed.
 - Start a face-to-face meeting in Southeastern Allegheny county or in the city of Pittsburgh
 - Consider filling a vacant position at GPI.
- **Group Conscience Discussion:**
 - How are your group conscience meetings scheduled: only as issues come up, following a regular schedule or some other way?
 - Specific day of the month, after the meeting
 - Cranberry Every 4th Saturday, after meeting, close & open with Serenity prayer, vary in length
 - Sewickley meeting is about 40 years old, and 2nd Monday of the month, discuss GPI announcements, or changes in format or WSO suggestions, after the regular meeting
 - Thu Pleasant Hills and Sun 6p Brentwood, monthly on second week of the month, after the meeting, bring up issues, such as lack of attendance at group conscience
 - Mon. Lower Burrell, every first Monday of the month, following regular meeting, open and close with Serenity Prayer
 - Suggestion: Do you announce what was decided or discussed? Who leads the group conscience? If the group’s GPI rep leads the meeting, it gives structure to the meeting.
 - Monday has the group secretary lead the meeting.
 - Bridgeport Zoom meeting has a shared Google spreadsheet that is used for sign ups and group conscience agenda and minutes are kept on a separate page in the document.
 - Cranberry’s secretary runs the meeting.
 - Saturday Monroeville has a monthly meeting, led by the Secretary, decisions are announced at the next meeting.
 - Are your group conscience meetings held during a regular meeting, in lieu of a regular meeting or separately from your meeting time? How well does that work for your members?
 - Meetings were split between holding group conscience discussion within the regular meeting time or right after the regular meeting.
 - The group conscience meetings are chaired by the group secretary or intergroup representatives.
 - Do you follow a script (e.g., World Service Script) or is it more ad libbed?

- Most of our meetings do not follow a formal group conscience script, and frequently start the discussion with the Serenity Prayer.
- What types of topics have you covered at your group conscience meetings?
 - How to mix up what materials you are using, so you don't get the same subject multiple times a week.
 - Suggestion to use a timer, or to change the format, as in to read the literature before anyone shares.
 - One meeting shared that they keep a Google document for attendance and to list topics they would like to discuss at the next group conscience meeting.
- What are the most contentious topics discussed at your conscience meetings and how were they resolved?
 - A tradition was broken that caused chaos, and it was discussed at the next group conscience
 - Redoing the script when the Unity with Diversity policy was suggested by World Service, and inclusion of language for welcoming anyone who doesn't follow a religion.
- How are your group conscience decisions documented and/or filed?
 - Through written recaps in the We Care book; emails kept by the group secretary, a recap in a google document that can be accessed by all attendees
- **Other Issues & Concerns:**
 - Elaine R. passed away, Ethel H. has lost her husband recently, Elaine T. is facing serious surgery on the 13th due to ongoing issues from the accident. Karen's daughter passed away suddenly
 - Members planning to attend the World Service Convention in August: If anyone is planning to go, reach out to Tricia and let her know.
 - R7 slideshow about the importance of F2F meetings will be posted on the R7 website. In March, there will also be a slideshow on outreach made available. At the assembly Sat. March 29, there will be an open workshop available to anyone. The assembly is also open to anyone as a visitor.

A FOLLOW-UP EMAIL WILL BE SENT WITH ITEMS TO TAKE BACK TO MEETINGS

Meeting adjourned with OA Responsibility Pledge.

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