

10-11-23 OIG MINUTES

Opening: Welcome, Serenity Prayer, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, two of the 12 Concepts and Introductions. 22 people in attendance.

Minutes from September 13, 2023, presented by Pat O'C since Carolyn S., our secretary, was out of the country. Minutes approved as written.

Chair, Pat O'C.: The focus of most of the evening was on the Treasurer's Report about the recent Serenity Retreat and on our 2024 Proposed Budget:

Treasurer, Bob C.:

Serenity Retreat Financial Results

The total cost of the 2023 retreat was about \$13,400. Registration fees and 7th Tradition generated \$7200. The Intergroup paid the balance of approximately \$6200. This works out to approximately a \$100 subsidy per attendee since 52 persons attended the retreat this year.

To put this into perspective, prior to COVID, most of our retreats and in-person events made a profit for Oregon Intergroup. Those monies helped us cover our overhead and outreach to newcomers. However, the pandemic put an extended hold on all in-person gatherings. Since then, most meetings have decided to remain on-line permanently. Although this has been a logical evolution for OA and the rest of the world, we firmly believe there is great value to meeting face-to-face to strengthen fellowship.

Also because of the pandemic, we did not use our previously established line budgets to send delegates to the Annual Regional One Assembly and the World Service Business Conference. Money set aside to cover the expenses of those delegates was reallocated to reach out in other ways to help find people in need of OA.

Last year, when it was safe again to gather as a group, we decided to revive our in-person OA Serenity Retreat. Understanding that we had a whole new generation of members who had no knowledge of what a retreat offers, we knew we needed to encourage them to attend. We also needed to factor in that the pandemic had a negative financial impact on on-going members. In the past, scholarships had been offered to members of given meetings. But those scholarship funds had disappeared when the meetings were no longer in person. Given these considerations, we decided to reduce our registration fees and offer a significant discount to subsidize members who had never attended a retreat in the past. The difference between the actual cost of the retreat and the income we generated was subsidized by using our a large amount of our cash reserve.

The 2022 retreat was a success and we decided to hold it yet again this year. We continued with the very low entry level registration fee to newbies and on-going members. Total attendance this year was near the maximum we could accommodate. This led to a successful retreat but depleted our remaining cash reserve.

It is now time to rethink how we handle retreat costs in the future.

The monthly in-person events we held prior to the pandemic had almost always provided additional funds to OIG. The Intergroup Events Organizer would solicit individual meetings to sponsor events on various OA topics throughout the year. The events then became a great way for meeting members to bond over holding the event. Additionally, they were a great motivation for members to travel to other meetings throughout Oregon Intergroup, mingle and build camaraderie. Many meetings excelled at these events, making them a yearly given in their groups agendas. These half day events helped fund our yearly expenses, including our annual retreats. Now, sadly, our Intergroup no longer even has an Event Organizer. Instead, we have relied primarily on the larger OA meetings in major cities to provide event programming on ZOOM. We also have shifted to meetings being primarily on-line, so no longer have the opportunity in face-to-face meetings to “pass the hat” to contribute to event scholarship funds. Although our members have continued to support OA with their 7th traditional contributions at the same level as they had in past years, there have been no increases. At the same time, awareness of our monthly and annual special programs and their funding needs have dulled. Therefore, the loss of secondary income has made our retreat funding even more problematic.

After serious discussion at our 9-13-23 OIG meeting, the consensus was that the retreat is a valuable activity we want to continue. With that in mind, we voted to put down a deposit to reserve The Twin Rocks Center for Sept 6-8, 2024. If we do not generate enough support, this deposit is reimbursable. BUT, our great hope is that we do not need to cancel. Instead, we would prefer to make our members aware of our current financial reality... the costs for registrations must go up again, and we will need your help and ideas to find creative ways to fund future events.

Our goal is to communicate to our members the importance of us needing their creative and physical help in the future. Some good ideas about how to handle this have already been generated. They include: 1) making quarterly appeals to our members to “support a newcomer to the retreat”; 2) making sure our members are fully informed about the retreat costs by sending out financial reports to our meeting reps to share with their meeting members; 3) offering less expensive, one-day entry fees for those who cannot attend the full weekend; 4) asking meetings to check their balances and determine if scholarship funds are still being held that could be sent on to Intergroup; 5) asking meetings to once again sponsor live events in the next year; 6) having meetings arrange group carpools to the retreat to share the transportation costs and include people who could not drive there on their own; updating our members on a monthly basis about our funding of retreat balance.

More will be discussed on this issue. But, for now, we’re ending this month’s discussion on the retreat on a happy note... a live workshop has been proposed by Terri R. She would like to help create a panel discussion of “Who or What is Your Higher Power”. Is anyone or any meeting interested in organizing a workshop on this topic? If so, please contact Pat O’C at Chair@oregon-oa.org.

Proposed Budget for 2024, Bob C., Pat O’C., Dorothy C. and Jean H.:

Pat, Bob, Dorothy and Jean talked about a preliminary budget based on an income of about \$12,000. FYI, these costs are provided by our members only. We have no sponsors and OA guidelines wouldn’t allow them even if they were offered. We pay our own way, which means our members cover all our three main categories of expenses:

1. "Keep the Lights On" for website, liability insurance, 501C3 fees, post office box, etc. Those fixed costs for 2024 will be around \$6000 - \$6500.
2. Support OA expenses for 2 reps to our World Service Business Conference (WSBC), 2 reps to our General Assembly and Region 1 Assembly.
3. Special Projects: right now that is focused on the Serenity Retreat BUT *with more member support* we can add other Carry the Message projects as well.

Other Business Updates:

ZOOM meeting consolidations: We are looking to combine at least two of our current packed Monday night time slot meetings so we can reduce the number of zoom licenses we buy in 2024. More to be revealed as we meet with the impacted meetings.

Twelve Step Study Workshops: There is still time to sign up for the Tuesday evening 7-9 PM or Wed afternoon 3-5 PM Twelve Step Study Workshops. Tues. meetings for the 15 week program start Oct 24, Wed. starts Oct 25. Contact Chair@oregon-oa.org to sign up.

Service Positions in Need of Filling: Both Leanne M., our wonderful Retreat Chair and Nicole S., our registrar, did wonderful jobs this year. However, they've paid their dues in these roles and are stepping down. Pat found out later that Leanne intends to stay on as Retreat Chair. YAY! That means we need new blood to take over for our 2024 event. Those interested in taking on this highlight of our OA year are welcome to contact Pat O'C. at Chair@Oregon-oa.org.

Members in Attendance:

Board: Pat O'C, Chair; Carolyn S., Secretary; Bob C., Treasurer; Dorothy C., Vice-treasurer; Niik I., Group/Meeting Coordinator

Service Positions: Mikki Mc, OIG Zoom Coordinator; Jenice G., Speaker Meeting - 1st Sat..; Margie G., Webmaster:

Reps: Jean H., and Kathleen F., Vancouver Sat. In the Orchards 10 am; Rosanne K., Mon. 7:30pm Newburg ZOOM; Niik I., Sun. 10:30 Serenity Sunday; Margie G., Sun. 2pm McMinnville; Jenice G., 7:30 pm Mon. Night Milwaukee and Thursday noon End of the Trail ZOOM; Dorothy C., Tuesday Noon Little Meeting that Could; MaryKay B.: Sat., Sun. and Wed. 7am Unity Church; Terri R., Sat. in the Solution F2F; Christine U., Tues. 7:30 pm Salem ZOOM; Lily, Monday Night Miracles and Allison G., NEW rep, Wed. Noon Taste of Lifeline (welcome Allison!)

Members in general: Karen; Rosanne; Carol F.