**Approved OIG Minutes 1-10-24**

**OPENING:** Welcome, Serenity Prayer, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, two of the 12 Concepts and Introductions. 20 people in attendance.

Approval of minutes - Carolyn S., Secretary:  Minutes from our Nov. 8, 2023 and the preliminary minutes from our 1-10-24 meeting were approved with a few corrections: 1) we corrected the spelling of the Newberg meeting; 2) prior to Covid, we did have a Serenity Retreat in 2020 (not 2019); 3) that was our last “normal” retreat.

**Treasurer Update**, Bob C:

Final December budget balances are:

Checking:  $1,100

Savings:    $13,124 with $1 interest

We have closed out the 2023 year end budget. This annual event is critical for us so that we know how we’re doing financially and, if we have an excess, allow us to send it to Region 1 and World Service. Work to create this final budget was shared with Pat, Bob, Dorothy and Jean. A spreadsheet of the specifics are available if desired by contacting Pat at Chair@Oregon-oa.org. What follows here is the Reader’s Digest version of its highlights:

2023 Budget Summary:

**Income:**

Total actual income from membership include registration fees for our Serenity Retreat, 7th tradition donations and our 4th quarter 12th Step Study Group. Income came to approximately $16,000. At the beginning of 2023, we had established an annual budget of $13,042, which meant we spent more than we brought in. To compensate, we had to withdraw $7,000 from our savings to cover the above overage and actual costs of the Serenity Retreat expenses beyond those we already had in our budget. Total costs from all expenses were $26,600. Don’t faint.  We always fund a prudent reserve so this excess is covered. However, in 2024, we will need to make critical adjustments to avoid a repeat.

**Expenses:**

Serenity Retreat was our major drain. We had budgeted for $6,781, which included generous subsidies to attract newbies to attend. The good and bad news is that a larger number of newbies came than we anticipated. Our total costs tallied up at $14,109. This overage was due to the fact that we hadn’t done a “normal” retreat since 2020 and simply didn’t know how much to predict we’d earn and how much we could afford to provide in subsidies for our new members. When the 2023 deficit numbers were added up last month, we had significant discussion about whether we should hold retreats in the future. After a group conscience, we decided that the retreat offers great value to our members so, taking a BIG GULP, we have decided to continue it in 2024. However, we will need to restructure our retreat budget by increasing registration fees and reducing the number of new member subsidies. In addition, we are gathering ideas currently about ways to encourage our members to help support our 2024 retreat costs.

**Other expenses** included Lisa S., Beverly M. and Beverly M. as delegates to World Service (half of Beverly’s expenses were covered by Region I since she was a trustee nominee).  We also sent Martha J. to Region 1. Fortunately, we saved money on this line item because we had wisely budgeted for the max allowable number of delegates entitled to send (4 for WS and 5 for Region 1 Assembly). Since we sent fewer than budgeted, we were able to compensate some for the overages at the retreat.

Other expenses came in within a few dollars of projected budget expenses. That included a $100 monthly retainer for our webmaster consultant.

**Bottom Line:  We have no excess to send to WS and Region 1.**

For those of you who actually read the small print above, be aware that we conduct annual audits to assure our members that we are accurately reporting our costs and expenses. Our audit for 2023 will be within the next few months. Stay tuned. Better yet, offer to be on our budget committee. Pat O’C would be delighted to discuss this service position with you (Chair@Oregon-oa.org) and Bob C. would love to be replaced as OIG Treasurer.

**2024 Proposed Budget Summary:**

The budget for 2024 is very similar to 2023. The exception is that we are sadder but wiser about how much the retreat will cost now that we no longer have the excess of funds we had when Covid forced us to not send delegates to World Service and Region I. This means we need to increase income from this event, and also motivate support from our members in various fundraising possibilities so we can keep this event in future.  With that in mind, we continued with brain-storming ways to create exciting, successful fundraisers in 2024. Banner headlines on our website, meeting scholarship “drives” etc.:

In addition, Pat asked members to consider creative ideas to either carry the message or support our members in recovery. We want to do one GOOD thing as a win for us all. Something tangible and valuable. Many good ideas were suggested. They are listed below. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have other ideas. At this point, nothing is etched in stone:

1. An in-person social event attended by all members (i.e., a picnic, crafts and board games event to celebrate Summer Solstice)
2. Fun special themed fashion show (i.e., paper taped on us with OA sayings).
3. An OA entry at the Rose Parade (wearing masks to preserve anonymity)
4. Dance (like the Halloween dance we held years ago in which we came dressed as our greatest fears)
5. Talent show
6. Sane food cooking competition

Please, reps, talk up fundraising ideas and creative ideas at your meetings and return with more suggestions.  We will make a final decision on this at our February OIG meeting).

**World Service Business Conference Questionnaire Survey coming soon:**

All registered members of Oregon Intergroup will be receiving a questionnaire by the end of this month. It is a compilation of possible talking points to discuss at World Service in May. Your meeting can decide which of the proposals listed are or aren’t of importance to OA. You have the option to discuss these items as a group or opt to have members fill the questionnaires out individually and send them back via email.

While we’re on the subject, reps, ask if everyone in your meeting has received a questionnaire. If not, *AH-HAH!* They aren’t on our mailing list. Please urge them to go to [www.Oregon-oa.org](http://www.oregon-oa.org/). On the first page is a link where they can sign up.

Meeting rep updates:

Jenice G. reported that their speaker meeting this last month had 25 attendees. Gee… guess a lot of people overate during the holidays and now want to recover. This is our #1 annual chance at getting new members who stick. Let’s be sure to make any newcomers at our meetings feel welcomed, OKAY?

The Monday Night Milwaukie meeting is now officially just ZOOM. They’ve discontinued their efforts to do it hybrid.

**Service Calls:**

Statistically speaking, the people who stick in OA are the ones who commit to service positions. As we embark on a new year, we urge you reps to encourage your “sit-on-their-hands” group members to take the plunge and volunteer for something. The following Oregon Intergroup positions are empty right now and Pat O’C (Chair@Oregon-oa.org) would welcome some fresh faces to fill them: Co-Chair, Member at Large, a person to help us update our information on [OA.ORG](http://oa.org/) and Delegates for WSBC (NOTE: the last not only provides service to warm their souls but gets an all expense paid trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico!

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Board:  Pat O’C, Chair; Carolyn S. Secretary; Bob C., Treasurer; Dorothy C., Vice-treasurer

Service Positions:  Mikki Mc, OIG Zoom Coordinator; Jenice G., Speaker Meeting - 1st Sat..; Margie G., Webmaster; Lisa S., Delegate; Niik I., Meeting List Coordinator; Martha J., Oregon Delegate to Region 1

Reps:  Jean H., Sat. 10 am Saturday in the Orchards; Rosanne K., Mon. 7:30pm Newburg ZOOM; Margie G., Sun. 2pm McMinneville; Jenice G., 7 pm Mon. Night Milwaukee and Thursday noon End of the Trail ZOOM; Dorothy C., Monday noon Welcome Home; Mary Kay B., In the Solution Sat., Sun. and Wed. 7am Unity Church; Christina U., Tues. 7:30 pm Salem ZOOM; Allison G., Serenity Sun 10:30 Meeting, Wed. Noon Taste of Lifeline; Martha J., Friday Noon St. Barnabas; Gladys, PDX Monday Noon Writing, Beaverton Thursday 11am; Kathleen F., Sat. 10 am Vancouver; Barbara A.G. 9 am Saturday Salem Serenity; Lily, Monday Night Miracles; Julie D., Tuesday Noon, The LIttle Meeting That Could