

11-13-24 Approved OIG Meeting Minutes

Welcome: Serenity Prayer, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and one of the concepts of service

Introductions: We had 22 members at this month's meeting (all attendees are listed at the end of this document).

A big welcome to Tru, first time attendee!!! Tru is the representative for our Saturday at 7 am In the Solution Face-to-face (aka F2F)

Approval of November Minutes and an announcement, Carolyn S., Secretary:

Minutes for 10-13-24: Approved.

At our OIG meeting on 10-13-25, we changed the bylaws regarding the two-year terms of service for the chair and the secretary. Barring a tragic loss of either of these people, we will now be rotating these positions in terms of the expiration of their duties. One year, the secretary rotates out; the next, the chair. This guarantees there will never be a void in leadership in handling the more complicated ins and outs of the monthly agenda, reports, minutes and other administrative obligations since the positions will never again expire in the same year.

All of which means it is time for me, as your secretary, to hand over my position to one of you wonderful people. Ideally, it should be someone who aspires to move on to region chair and or beyond. If you would be interested in assuming my position, you can contact me for more information (Secretary@oregon-oa.org) or Pat (Chair@Oregon-oa.org). Do not worry, we promise you will get oodles of training and backup.

Report from our Treasurer, Jean H.:

Checking account at OnPoint Credit Union:

9/30/24 Balance	\$7,302.98
Deposits	\$1,720.28
Withdrawals	\$(643.08)
10/31/2024 Balance	\$8,380.18

Savings Account at OnPoint Credit union

9/30/2024 Balance	\$13,178.35
Interest Earned	\$1.12
10/31/2024 Balance	\$13,179.47

Total Cash on hand \$21,559.65
There is one outstanding check #1027 for 150.00.

Budget 2024 Review and Proposed 2025 Budget, Jean H., Treasurer:

Jean presented the spreadsheets for our current checking account balance as of the end of last month, including expenses and deposit and our 2025 projected budget.

Due to complications in transferring these spreadsheets to this document, they will be sent in a separate email.

OVERALL NOTES ON BUDGET:

- We based our proposed 2025 budget based on our actual deposits for 2024.
- Serenity Retreat is part of our annual budget, but the accounting for it is separate. For 2025, our goal is to repeat our goal for 2024, which was to make our Serenity Retreat be a break-even proposition. Although we do not yet have final numbers for the retreat, we are well within a reasonable range to believe this goal has been achieved.
- We were facing a new cost for our website calendar in 2025, which till now was free. Luckily, we have found a replacement calendar that will be free for a year. Alex, our IT guru, is looking into that now.
- We want to replace our current website with an upgrade. That will be covered in the Webmaster Report that follows.
- The budget proposed for 2025 was discussed throughout the rest of the meeting, and adjustments were made as needed.

Webmaster Appointment:

We voted in Cynthia E. as our new webmaster. She is replacing Margie G., who was a miracle worker during Covid, when we had to switch from face-to-face meetings to virtual (aka ZOOM) overnight.

Cynthia has a strong background in IT and website design, along with writing grants for another non-profit. She likes creative writing, walking daily and baking (although the baking is for her grandson, who has to take everything that's made out of the house when he ends his visits). Like many of us, she has determined that being of service allows her to keep in program.

Webmaster Report, Cynthia E.:

At this meeting, it was proposed that we convert our aging website to a new one. The current website was cutting edge when we created it, but that was years ago. By today's standards, it is dated and unnecessarily complicated. This conversion will make it easier for future webmasters to learn and manage our system. It would also make it easier for our members to use since it is

more flexible, has many streamlined options and will allow much better access for members who connect with us via their Android and iPhones.

Conversion expenses would include \$200 more per year in future expenses, with a one-time \$1800 in upfront costs for the conversion. Those expenses include the following:

1. End our domain registration on GoDaddy and move to Register.com. Total cost of \$200 for conversation and an annual fee of \$120.
2. Move to Wix for our website: \$348 per year (\$29 per month)
3. Have our IT specialist, Alex, make this conversion

We will fund these new costs with a current excess in our budget for the 2024 website, and additional funding for the 2025 website (see spreadsheets above for specifics).

After a lengthy discussion, the proposal to fund and convert was voted on and approved.

If anyone has ideas for what they'd like in this new website, please share them with Cynthia at Webmaster@Oregon-oa.org. If you need inspiration, please feel free to look at other websites for possibilities. Now's the time, all!

ZOOM Virtual License update, Mikki Mc:

Great news! Oregon Intergroup belongs to Tech Soup, which is a tech hub for non-profits. They are offering a special 50% discount on our ZOOM virtual licenses. The timing here is terrific since our licenses are due to be renewed in a month. As you may recall if you have been reading our minutes for the last several months, we had been exploring reducing our licenses from 5 to 4 to cut costs, but it was proving difficult to do. The 50% discount makes it unnecessary for 2025.

Serenity Retreat, Dawn F.:

Dawn reported that, during retreat this last year, she had some medical issues and needed lots of support to get through the weekend. When she was asked to be our chair again for 2025, she agreed, but only if there could be a co-chair to help her in the future. This was 100% approved by us. Traditionally, the chair and the registrar's expenses for the retreat are covered by Intergroup. They now need approval to increase the budget so that the co-chair's expenses are also included. Retreat costs will be somewhere between \$265 - \$275 for full price registration. This motion was approved unanimously.

Dawn also reported on the discounts we've offered newcomers to attend the Serenity Retreat. At the end of Covid, we had had to skip two retreats in a row, so getting people to return was an

issue. To get them back, we offered a \$50 registration fee for people who'd never attended one of our retreats before. That offer was very successful, and we had 30 new people show up thanks to it. This last year, we offered a 49% discount for those new to the retreat, which attracted 15 newcomers to pack their pillows and show. Now that we're heading into three years post-Covid, we don't feel the same need to encourage people to come since they're coming anyway. Discussion of members present was had on how much if any discount we wanted to offer for the 2025 retreat. After reflection, we proposed a discounted rate of \$199 for newcomers. This proposal was approved.

But, in case you're so inclined, we always welcome additional donations from our members to support the Retreat. The face-to-face (F2F) meetings can do this by passing the "hat" to create a scholarship fund for their members. It's a great way to encourage members to show up for in-person meetings and help people get to the Retreat. If you attend via a ZOOM meeting, you can always donate to Oregon-oa.org, which uses their funding to help support all our programs.

It was also suggested that, after our future retreats, we have a report offered through an OIG Blog about how the event went. Of course, we'd have to set up a blog to do that, but... that's also a great idea. Any volunteers to take this on? If so, contact Pat at Chair@Oregon-oa.org.

In addition, the issue of switching to another site for 2025, perhaps one with more comfortable beds for us with creaky joints, was brought up. Right now, we're locked in at Twin Rocks for 2025. However, if anyone has an idea about another place for future retreats, please contact SerenityRetreat@Oregon-oa.org.

Dawn will be doing a finalized report of our 2024 retreat at our next meeting, which is in January.

Reminder: We are skipping an Oregon Intergroup meeting in December!!!

Events Coordinator, Kathleen F.:

Kathleen's first event is "The Promises by Candlelight", which is a common event across the country in OA Groups. She has now purchased lovely candles and booked 12 speakers who will share their experiences with each of the promises from the Big Book. When they finish their individual shares, they will light a single candle. At the end, all event participants also have a chance to share and light a candle. The event is on Dec. 7, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. It was decided that we have a suggested donation of \$5 for the event. Please, if that's a hardship now, don't worry about it... just come.

Over the next year, Kathleen is planning four events, with a requested budget of \$1000 (see 2025 Proposed Budget above). However, this is seed money. Hopefully, most of the expenses will be covered with 7th tradition contributions and this money will go back to Intergroup.

Program in my Pocket Clearance Sale:

The clearance sale at Regional went very well. We only have 20 booklets left. We are going to offer the remaining for free for the first 20 who attend The Promises by Candlelight.

Reports from Reps:

Niik, our meeting list coordinator, announced that, unfortunately, two meetings have closed. They are the Tuesday, 5:30pm Writing Meeting F2F and the Friday 10 am Cozy Comfy Readers Virtual meeting. If anyone needs to update their meeting, go to the website and click on the Meeting link. In it, you'll find a form to update your meeting's data.

Jenice, Speakers Meeting Coordinator. At the last meeting, we had at least 28 people (!) and two wonderful speakers.

Pat, our Chair, related that she discovered a struggling meeting that was not on our schedule. This poor meeting didn't even know the Oregon Intergroup existed. They have their own ZOOM license and are listed on OA.Org but did not know they could affiliate with Oregon Intergroup to help them. Sadly, without our support, they have been having trouble getting into their own bank account because their long-time treasurer is in a memory assisted nursing home. We are now trying to get their money out of the account and have listed them as part of our online Intergroup.

Speaking of banks, there are many more federal regulations now than before because of new money-laundering challenges. Those are to keep criminals from "washing" huge amounts of illegal money, which is good. But those regulations are inadvertently ensnaring non-profits like us, which is bad. To wit, we can no longer share our 501(c)(3) number or our Secretary of State number with individual meetings even in our fellowship. What that means is that if your meeting wants to set up a new bank account now, you may not be able to unless you've already established it as a 501(c)(3) meeting. For those who don't know, that would be ridiculously costly and complicated. Ergo, sooner or later, all our meetings are going to have to grapple with this. Your group is okay now if you have an established treasurer and bank account. But when you want to rotate in a new treasurer, you might find that the banks may not accept the change. So be kind to your treasurer and ply them with lots of vitamins and blueberries.

Elections Held: *Cynthia E. elected to fulfill balance of the webmaster's term.*

Motions Approved at this Meeting:

1. Update our Oregon -OA.org website at a cost of \$1800. This involves redesign, new host site and new functionality especially on mobile devices.

2. Request to cover registration/costs for both co chairs as well as Registrar at the Serenity Retreat.

3. Approve \$199 registration fee (discount from regular registration) for persons who have never been to a retreat before.

4. Approved the amended 2025 Budget.

Formal Closing - Serenity Prayer

Attendees:

Board: Pat O'C, Chair; Carolyn S., Secretary; Jean H., Treasurer; Kathleen F., Events Coordinator; Dawn F., 2024 and 2025 Retreat Co-Chair; Allison G., Delegate 2

Service Positions: Mikki Mc, On-line Coordinator (formerly OIG Zoom Coordinator), Cynthia E., Webmaster; Jenice, Speaker Coordinator

Reps (in order, alphabetically, by first name; V = virtual; F2F = Face to Face):

Allison G., Mon and 12pm Wed, Taste of Lifeline, V
Debbie, 10am Tues., Beaverton
Dvora R., 10 am Sat., Freedom from Compulsive Overeating
Gladys H., Tues. Noon, Beaverton, F2F
Jenice – Mon., 7pm, Milwaukie OA Friends, V
Karen – Mon 7:30pm, Leaven Community Center, F2F
Katt, Co-Rep. Fri. 7pm, Green Shag Serenity Seekers, V
Kathleen F., Sat 10 am, Vancouver in the Orchards, F2F
Margie G., Tues. 7pm, McMinnville Voices of Recovery, V
Monica B., Wed noon, Lake Oswego, F2F
Nancy M., ?
Niik I., Sun., 2pm, Progress not Perfection Literature Meeting, F2F
Rosanne K., Mon 7:30 The Newburg Meeting, V
Stephanie K., 7am in the Solution on Wed., Sat. & Sunday, V
Tru – Sat. am F2F In the Solution, F2F