

SNI Meeting Minutes: Saturday, December 4, 2021.

**SNI Mission Statement: “To welcome, inspire, strengthen and grow the fellowship of OA”**

**OPENING:** The regular meeting of the Suburban North Intergroup (SNI) was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, via Zoom. Vice Chair Carolyn S. opened the meeting at 10 am with The Serenity Prayer.

**Present Were:**

- Vice Chair: Carolyn S.
- Treasurer: Neal M.
- Recording Secretary: Laural R.
- Acting Corresponding Secretary: Maureen R. (Also, keeper of the Meeting and Sponsorship Lists)

**Intergroup Representatives (IRs):**

- Monday 6 pm Arlington Heights: Elisa R.
- Monday 7 pm Niles: Penny N.
- Wednesday 9:30 am Schaumburg: June L. (also Designated Downloader)
- Wednesday 7 pm Barrington: Lauryl B.
- Saturday 10 am Crystal Lake: Christine G.
- Saturday 11 am Northbrook: Josephine C.

**Visitors:**

- Website Manager: John C.
- R5 Vice Chair: Deanna B.

-Elisa R. read the 12 Steps; Josephine C. read the 12 Traditions; Neal M. reflected on the Tradition of the Month (Tradition 12-Anonymity) and Maureen R. read the long version of the Concepts (Concept 12-Guidelines). The reading and adopting of the Standing Rules, upon agreement of those present, was not read at this meeting.

-The proposed agenda stood with only one addition. John C. would be joining Laural R. in discussing the Website Report, along with the Website Committee’s three proposals for SNI discussion.

-The November Minutes were approved with two deletions: 1) Under “Present Were” Laural R. no longer serves as the Monday & Thursday 10 am Northbrook IR, so that was deleted. 2) Under “Treasurer Report” the very last line was deleted in that section.

**REPORTS, QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS: Reports from the Chair, Treasurer and Designated Downloader sent out before the meeting. Updates and other reports are listed here.**

**Designated Downloader:** (June L.)

- The revised *Tools of Recovery* pamphlet is available for \$1.00 from the OA website, Apple Books, Amazon Kindle, Barnes and the Barnes and Noble Nook. A free download

of the abridged version is available on the OA website in the Document Library under "Tools."

- The deadline for taking the Survey to improve sponsorship is Saturday, December 4, 2021.
- Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> is the "Twelfth Step Within Day." For ideas on how to reach out to the still-suffering compulsive eater within our Fellowship, go to oa.org Document Library for Keep It Simple Ideas.
- Recovery Stories are still available for free at [www.oalifeline.org](http://www.oalifeline.org).
- Please consider making an OA end-of-year contribution. Donations can set up on a monthly or quarterly automatic recurring contribution at [www.oa.org/contribute](http://www.oa.org/contribute).
- Look at the OA Young People website at <https://oayoungpeople.org/> and the Tik Tok channel for young people at <https://www.tiktok.com@youngpeopleoa>.
- Region 5 still needs submissions for their newsletter. Submit to [media@region5oa.org](mailto:media@region5oa.org).
- There are many virtual Holiday Recovery Events. Look at the Downloader Report for more specific information.
- The Saturday, December 11 "All About the Tenth Step Recovery Event" has been postponed.
- A new download *Introduction to the Twelve Steps* (from *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*, Second Edition) has been downloaded to the OA website.

**Chair Report:** (Wanda C.) – not present

- The 2021 Region 5 Fall Assembly Report was sent out to SNI prior to the meeting.
- In addition, a Supplementary Report by Christine G. was also included in the materials sent out prior to the SNI meeting.

**Vice Chair Report:** (Carolyn S.)

- Carolyn S. made a few remarks regarding to her being a first-time representative to the Region 5 Fall Assembly.
- "It was a joy to attend the assembly." Carolyn S. was very moved by her participation and noted that the assembly broadened and added to her recovery.

**Treasurer Report:** (Neal M.)

- See Treasurer Report sent out prior to SNI meeting for specific details.
- Everything has been rectified and balanced up to this point.
- Neal M. plans on donating 100% of our net income, minus the reserve, in a 60%-40% split to the World Service Organization and Region 5.

**Recording Secretary Report:** (Laural R.) – no report

**Acting Corresponding Secretary Report:** (Maureen R.)

- Maureen R. and Ricki G. will update the Meeting List to post on the Website in time for January's SNI Meeting.

- Included in the updates: 1) Friday 9 am Elgin meeting will be Zoom Only effective December 24, 2021. 2) The new IR for the Monday 7 pm Niles meeting is Penny N. *Note: Penny N. will no longer be the rep for the Thursday night Northbrook meeting, which has been disbanded.* 3) New meeting will be added. Friday 6pm Norridge Big Book/Writing Meeting at Divine Savior, 7740 W. Montrose, Norridge, IL. Pam G. (847-924-1594) is the meeting contact. Meetings will begin on January 14, 2022.
- Maureen R. and Laural R. will be coordinating a new list of SNI Intergroup Reps and the Contact Person for each of the SNI meeting groups.
- Maureen R. will contact the meeting groups without reps and encourage them to have representation at SNI level.

### **Zoom Report**

- Deanna B. gave SNI notice that she will no longer host our SNI meetings.
- Deanna B. suggested our Recording Secretary (Laural R.) contact the Region 5 secretary and request that, until SNI decides about our own Zoom account, Region 5 set up a recurring monthly meeting for us (SNI) on their Zoom account.
- SNI Zoom Committee will consider the R5 information about using the R5 Zoom account for intergroup meetings, etc. Or, whether there remains a need to still purchase a separate SNI Zoom Account.
- Further discussion tabled until January meeting.

### **2022 CONVENTION**

At a R5 2022 Zoom Convention Committee, SNI volunteered to head the Hospitality Committee.

- Hospitality Committee members include SNI's Wanda C., Maureen R., Lauryl B., Carol G., Darlette P., with Carolyn S. joining this Spring. In addition, Lori R. (Chi-Wiff) and Phil C. (TPI) volunteered from their intergroups. The R5 Vice Chair, Deanna B. (and R5 Convention liaison), also joined the committee.
- The Hospitality Committee is in need of a Chair. Maureen R. volunteered to be Recording Secretary.
- Responsibilities include: 1) Greeting and answering questions from attendees prior to the start of the Meetings. 2) Being in charge of organizing and implementing activities (in conjunction with the Entertainment Committee, of which SNI's Christine G. volunteered to Co-Chair) during break/hallway times or down-time between speakers.

### **INTERGROUP RENEWAL GOALS**

**Website Committee Report** (John C. and Laural R.) - Three Proposals were presented to SNI.

#### **Proposal #1 – Should financial information be posted to the SNI website?**

- The IRS requires all not-for-profits to make financial data available to the public.

- According to the National Council of Non-Profits, “nonprofits embrace the values of accountability and transparency as a matter of ethic leadership, as well as legal compliance.”
- Although there are no specific website requirements, many sites do post their financial information.
- After much discussion, **SNI decided to make financial information available to the public upon request.**
- **SNI gave the Treasurer permission to redact any names within the Treasurer Report to maintain personal anonymity, which is the foundational principle of OA.**

**Proposal # 2 – Should the website “Contact” section include specific Gmail accounts for each of the SNI officers?**

- The website already includes the Ring Central phone number. Ring Central calls are usually returned within 48 hours.
- Many issues were discussed including: 1) the need (or not) for a Gmail account for the SNI Executive Officers, 2) other options, i.e.-using Outlook for the emails or paying for email accounts directly tied to our website, 3) Maureen suggested that data be collected on how many times a person might use email to contact SNI. She reported that Ring Central handles 3 to 4 calls, on the average, each month and suggested direct email contact might not be needed.
- John will investigate these other options and research the email stats for “hits” on our websites. He will report back at our January meeting.
- After much discussion, a compromise was suggested. **In addition to listing Ring Central on the Contact Page, the SNI website would include a way for members to contact SNI via email., i.e.- [sniinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sniinfo@gmail.com) or [sni.infor@gmail.com](mailto:sni.infor@gmail.com).**
- A motion was made and **SNI decided to set up a general email account (see above) so members might directly contact SNI via email.**
- John C. will set this Gmail account up and post it on our website.
- SNI needs to have one person monitor this account. It was suggested that the Corresponding Secretary be the monitor. Note: It was also suggested that the Recording Secretary might be involved. No specific decision was made.

**Proposal #3 – Should SNI have a “Tools” page?**

- This page would be a place to post: SNI Agenda, SNI Meeting Minutes, and any other SNI Reports. The thought was that this page would be another way for SNI members to access information and reduce the workload, i.e.- *Winging It* would not have to include so much information, because it would be already available on the website. The new *Winging It* editor could focus on recovery stories.
- After much discussion, some questions arose 1) Would this page replace the Monthly Email Blast? It might (eventually) or it could just be another way to access SNI information. 2) How would SNI members access this information? Would there be a passcode? Doesn’t require a passcode unless SNI wants one.
- After much discussion, it became obvious that the Website Committee/SNI needs to determine the audience for this “Tools” page. Would it be for SNI members only?

Would it be for all members? Might we need a way to combine both, i.e.-some things for only SNI and others for both SNI and all other members?

- **SNI decided to send this proposal back to the Website Committee for clarification at their next meeting on December 12, 2021.**
- The Website Committee will report back to SNI at the January meeting.

**Next Website Committee Meeting – Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 9:30 am**

Meeting ID: 214-604-4832

Passcode: 524257

Note: This is a personal Zoom account. If the meeting lasts more than 40 minutes, we just sign back on and continue. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

**Smart Goals Template and a Second Goal** – Tabled until January 2022

**Winter Workshop? WINGING IT? Health Fair?**

1. Winter Workshop – Tabled until January 2022
2. *WINGING IT* – Needs Editor. John C. pointed out that the job of editor would be simpler because much of the information normally included in *Winging It* is already published on our website. Further discussion tabled until January 2022
3. Health Fair – Maureen R. reported that her contact with the Platinum Adventures Health Fair resulted in all slots being full for the January 2022 date. However, the liaison indicated SNI was welcome to register (around June 2022) for the January 2023 Fair.

**WRAP UP**

**What to bring back:**

- 1) Twelfth Step Within Day Information.
- 2) SNI Website Updates ([www.oachicagosni.org](http://www.oachicagosni.org)).
- 3) Need more people to help with Hospitality for Region 5's 2022 Convention, including a chair for the organizing committee.
- 4) New/revised *The Tools of Recovery* pamphlet and new free download of *Introduction to the Twelve Steps* is available on the OA website.

**Closing:** The meeting ended at 12:08 pm with the 7<sup>th</sup> Step Prayer.

**Next SNI Meeting:**

- The first Saturday in January is January 1<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Day), SNI decided to hold the January SNI meeting on the second Saturday in January.
- **The NEXT SNI MEETING to be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 8, 2022, from 10 am to 12 noon. (Meeting ID: 868-4196-6960 Passcode: 563204) Please note the NEW Meeting ID and Passcode, as provided by R5.**

Respectively submitted,  
Laural R. Recording Secretary