

SNI Meeting Minutes for Saturday, November 9, 2024

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Suburban North Intergroup (SNI) was held by Zoom on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Susan M opened the meeting at 10:01 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Present were:

Board members:

- Vice Chair: Susan M. (also acting Recording Secretary and Region 5 Representative)
- Treasurer: Carolyn S. (also Region 5 Representative and WSBC Delegate)
- Corresponding Secretary: Maureen R. (also Keeper of the SNI Sponsorship List and the Zoom Committee Chair)

Representatives:

- Monday 6 pm Zoom: Shari D. (also Media Coordinator)
- Wednesday 9:30 am Schaumburg: June L. (also Designated Downloader and Alternate WSBC Delegate)
- Wednesday 7 pm Morton Grove: Eleanor W.
- Saturday 11 am St Giles: Sue S.

There were no visitors.

June L. and Shari D. volunteered to be on the Minutes Review Committee.

Opening Ceremonies:

- Eleanor W. read the 12 Steps, Maureen R. read the 12 Traditions, Susan M. reflected on Tradition 11 (Anonymity), June L. read the long version of the 11th Concept of OA Service (Humility), Susan M. read page 307 of *For Today*.
- The Agenda was adopted as written.
- June L. read the Standing Rules, and they were adopted as written.
- The October 12, 2024 SNI Meeting Minutes were adopted as amended.

Reports:

- Designated Downloader June L.
 - June's report was posted on our website (oachicagosni.org).
 - Notice the Pamphlet and Wallet Card price increase of \$0.25 each, effective January 1 (to ensure that literature items remain self-supporting).
 - Notice the new suggested 7th Tradition split (50/10/40).
 - A new 7th Tradition Pamphlet will come out in January.
 - Submit your Abstinence story by January 1, for consideration in a new book.
 - Check out the events, including for IDEA and Thanksgiving.
- Vice Chair Susan M.
 - Susan's report was sent in the pre-meeting e-blast and will be part of these minutes.
 - SNI has open service opportunities: Chair, Recording Secretary, Region 5 Representative.

- Treasurer Carolyn S.
 - Carolyn's report and the current budget were posted on our website.
- Corresponding Secretary Maureen R.
 - The Saturday 11 am meeting has a new Intergroup Rep: Sue S, and a new Contact Person: Cathy O'G.
 - We have 27 meetings, 13 of which have Intergroup reps.
- Region 5 Representatives Carolyn and Susan's Fall Assembly Report
 - Carolyn shared some of her experience at the Fall Assembly and will submit her report for our next meeting.
 - The Communications Connectivity Subcommittee is working on emailing letters to higher educational institutions. If you are interested in helping, connect with Carolyn.
 - Region 5 has a new Chair (Pam P from Cleveland) and Treasurer (Barbara H from Louisville).
 - Susan's report was sent in the eblast and will be posted as part of this meeting's minutes.

Business:

- TSW Committee: Maureen R. reported on the progress we are making in planning **the next SNI Recovery Event, February 1st, 12:30-3:30 pm**, at Kingswood Church and invited those interested to join our planning meeting via Zoom next Thursday 5:30-6:30 pm.
- PIPO Committee: Susan M. discussed many opportunities we have as an intergroup and as individual members to serve with Public Information:
 - PSAs (Public Service Announcements) for radio/television/and other media
 - Please let us know any local stations that you listen to or watch.
 - Public bulletin boards
 - Please let us know where you see such bulletin boards.
 - Posters and bulletin board attraction sticky notes can be posted.
 - New Prospect Cards
 - It is suggested that you use the intergroup website for local information rather than a phone number.
 - These are handy for surprise connections with interested parties.
 - The *Courier*
 - This newsletter is available as a pdf download.
 - It is for health professionals written by health professionals.
 - This is great to share with any health professional.
 - Posters
 - Some are available for purchase, some as pdf downloads.
 - These may be posted anywhere posters are allowed.
- Budget discussion
 - We will be thinking about what projects we want to fund for 2025 and look over the budget to prepare to ask questions about any line item we don't understand.

- In December we will discuss what line items to report going forward and how much we want to budget for each.
- Handbook
 - We looked at the Bylaws Article I through Article III, Section 1.
 - Notice that committee chairs do not need to be intergroup reps.
- Supporting our meetings
 - We plan to consider ways to connect with groups who do not have reps in December.

The next SNI meeting is scheduled for **December 7th**, 10 am – Noon, as a Hybrid meeting, in person at the Youth Center, 50 ½ Raupp Rd, Buffalo Grove, IL, and on Zoom. We have the room until 1 pm, so **please bring your lunch and a buddy and stay for fellowship**. Those joining by Zoom may also stay connected for lunch.

Closing:

The meeting was closed at Noon with the OA Responsibility Pledge and the Third Step Prayer.

Susan M, SNI Acting Recording Secretary

SNI Vice Chair Report for the November 9, 2024 SNI meeting

- Reminder: We have 2 SNI Board position open: Chair and Recording Secretary. We also have a Region 5 Representative position open.
 - Please consider stepping up to run for these service opportunities. They offer excellent opportunities to practice the principles of the program, as well as to learn skills that are transferable to other areas of your life.
 - Encourage Fellows you know in the program who may qualify to consider stepping up to run.
 - If you don't qualify, this is a good time to make it a goal to qualify for such service in the future!
- The Region 5 Fall Assembly was revitalizing! I wish you could have all been there, and strongly recommend you either run to be a region representative when you qualify and/or go as a guest/volunteer sometime soon. I am most grateful to SNI for electing me as a Region 5 Representative many years ago. It was a first step toward so many of the opportunities and blessings I have experienced in my life!
- I find it interesting that out of the ten states that currently make up Region 5, Illinois has the most intergroups, and we also had the highest percentage of our intergroups represented.
- I am excited about so many upcoming recovery events, most of which interested members may help plan!
- If you want to get excited about recovery, find a need and fill it!
- I would like some volunteers to help me research post high school institutions for specific contact information. Let me know if this is a service you would be willing to help with.
- I noticed that in signing off on the October minutes, I used "Respectively" instead of "Respectfully". I have updated the minutes. Then I read that "Respectfully submitted" was out dated and no longer used. It was suggested that minutes and reports simply end with the name and title of the author, so I did that.
- I have seen a form that another intergroup has each of its meetings fill in annually and heard of other practices that we may wish to consider to help support our meetings. We can discuss this at the November meeting.

Thank you for your service. Together, we get better!

Susan M, SNI Vice Chair

Fall 2024 Region 5 Assembly report for SNI from Susan M

- **Carolyn S and I represented SNI** at the 2024 Fall Region 5 Assembly in Chesterton, IN, November 1-3. **Two other SNI members**, Deanna B and Wanda C, attended the assembly as guests/volunteers.
- **Service** beyond the general duties of representatives:
 - SNI and CSSI (Chicago Suburban Southwest Intergroup) were jointly **hosting the assembly**, which means helping with registration and facilitating the 2 OA meetings and the Intergroup Sharing. Deanna helped with registration on Friday evening, Caroline did the same on Saturday morning. Carolyn facilitated the Intergroup sharing, which June L attended virtually.
 - Wanda also served as the copy coordinator and election teller.
 - Deanna also served as the timer.
 - I am on the Minutes Approval Committee.
- Besides the Region 5 Board and 4 guests (including 2 people who will be running for World Service Trustee positions), this assembly had 16 representatives (67 is the maximum number eligible at this time) from 12 of our 28 Intergroups in 5 of our 10 states.
- **Friday:**
 - I missed the small but **powerful open OA meeting** before registration.
 - During the opening session on Friday night, we **brainstormed possibilities** for how to plan future assemblies to best serve our expanded region: in person, virtual, hybrid, alternating in person and virtual, etc. There is something important that happens at in person assemblies that isn't present in virtual assemblies. Hybrid meetings can be difficult and expensive to pull off well. A suggestion for hybrid meetings would be to meet in a facility set up for such meetings. The cost of that will be looked into.
 - Carolyn facilitated the **Intergroup Sharing** session. Some ideas that were discussed:
 - **Celebrating OA annual events**, such as OA Birthday, Unity Day, Sponsorship Day, International Day Experiencing Abstinence (IDEA), and Twelfth Step Within Day
 - Having a **speaker once a month** seems to increase attendance at meetings.
 - **Recovery clubs** can be a good option for a meeting place. Different clubs have different rules about rent. Meetings may need to retain funds for distributions to Intergroup, Region, and World Service.
 - **Sponsor events**, such as a monthly book club.
 - Have a **topic meeting immediately before** an intergroup meeting, inviting participants to stay for the business meeting.
 - Some **intergroups have merged** with neighboring intergroups.
 - Have reps report whether their meeting is **growing, holding steady, or needs support**.
 - Check out **other intergroup and region websites** for ideas.

- During the **state meetings**, 5 of the 6 Illinois Intergroups were represented. We decided to host an **All Illinois Unity Day event** on February 22, 2025, 1-3 pm. We have several ideas to work with. We plan to use Susan's Zoom account for planning meetings and Region 5's account for the event. Five of the 6 Illinois intergroups were represented. Let me know if you would like to serve on the planning committee.
- Saturday:
 - There was time to hear updates on the **reports** from Packet B, plus an opportunity to ask questions about the reports. **Some highlights** to note:
 - Make sure all images used are used with **permission** to avoid suits against OA.
 - **Check every meeting listing on oa.org**, even if there have been no changes. Sometimes information gets changed without the knowledge of the group in question.
 - Sign up for the **monthly WSO newsletter**.
 - **Stories are needed for the new Abstinence book!** Due by January 1, 2025.
 - Submit stories, video, and more to the **Lifeline Blog**.
 - **Add Intergroup events to the calendars** on region5oa.org and oa.org.
 - **WSBC 2025** will be held virtually May 4-10, 2025.
 - There are **new "Focus On ..." Reference Guides for TSW service**.
 - Help with the **University Outreach**. (Contact me if you would like to help.)
 - Check out the **new Joy of Service E-Zine**.
 - What were called **Young Persons** are now called **Young Adults**, since policy does not support having minors in OA meetings.
 - The suggested **Seventh Tradition split** for groups will change to 50/10/40 (intergroup/region/World Service) in 2025.
 - Have you seen the **Guidelines for a Newcomers Informational Meeting?**
 - Check out the **12 Concepts of OA Service Workshop**.
 - **Business committees** met (Bylaws, Convention, Finance, and Media).
 - Carolyn and I were both on the **Bylaws Committee**. I served as secretary. We considered two Emergency New Business motions, one from the Finance Committee which we amended and approved, and the other one was from our committee. We also amended the motion from the Everything Intergroup Sub-committee, which had not been previously considered by the bylaws committee. We have a couple issues to work on when we meet next via Zoom on January 12.
 - Among other activities after the luncheon, a **7th tradition** was taken, totally \$282. Following that there was a **Parliamentary Moment**, then the Region 5 Board and Trustee **candidates** were asked to speak to us and field questions.
 - The **Outreach** Committee of the Whole Sub-committees met. I continue to work on the **Everything Intergroup Sub-committee**. I was asked (and agreed) to become the sub-committee chair. We decided to personally contact the chair of

each intergroup in Region 5 to see how Region 5 can better serve them. We are currently brainstorming talking points to help us come up with guidelines for the conversations. Once we have a plan in place, we will have the Region 5 Board give us feedback before we act on it. We are also planning to provide other services to intergroups, like accessible resources for best practices, informative and/or problem-solving virtual conversations with intergroup chairs, similar conversations with intergroup treasurers, etc. (The BOT Treasurer meets bimonthly with the region treasurers to support them.)

- Some intergroups have a practice of having their member introductions include whether their meeting is “growing, holding steady, or needing help”.
- An interesting question that came up was: “What is your idea of a successful intergroup?” If that idea isn’t currently being realized, how can Region 5 help it to be realized?
- The next meeting for the Everything Intergroup Sub-committee meeting is planned for Sunday, November 17, 6:30 CT, 7:30 ET.
- A bid was made and accepted for the **2025 Region 5 Convention** by the Central Indiana Intergroup.
- Saturday late evening, there was a **powerful open OA meeting**.
- Sunday
 - Committees and sub-committees gave **reports**.
 - The **2024 Convention** had a profit of \$25,903.67, and 25% (\$6476) went to the hosting intergroup.
 - All 4 **motions were passed**.
 - **Elections results** were:
 - Pam P from Cleveland Central Intergroup became the new Region 5 Chair
 - Barbara H from Louisville Metro Intergroup became the new Region 5 Treasurer
 - Juliette R from Ohio and Preston F from Chicago Suburban Southwest Intergroup received the Region’s affirmation as nominees for World Service Trustees. The next election for Trustees will be next spring at the World Service Business Conference. If elected, Juliette plans to be Region 5’s Trustee Liaison, Preston plans to continue to serve as Trustee on the Executive Committee.
 - The **2025 Budget** was approved. Representatives who may have finished their term were **celebrated**, as were the “Green Dots” —representatives for which this was their first Region 5 Assembly. And there was the “Chair’s Drawing” with marvelous gifts.
 - After the assembly had been adjourned, there was a **Good of the Order** meeting for all officers and committee/sub-committee chairs (outgoing, continuing, and incoming) to debrief. (I wasn’t expecting to qualify to attend this!)

Service offers opportunities for deeper connections with others. The in-person assemblies and business conferences offer much in the way of recovery support in the form of OA meetings,

writing opportunities, workshops, service, and friendship (not to mention hugs!). Some of that happens in virtual settings, but there is a magical connection that happens in person.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve SNI and Region 5! It has been a recovery energizing experience!

Susan M, Region 5 Representative for SNI

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