

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Suburban North Intergroup (SNI) was held via Zoom only on March 14, 2026. Susan M. opened the meeting at 10.07 am CT with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Present were:

Board Members:

- Vice Chair: Susan M. (also acting Chair, acting Recording Secretary, Region 5 Representative, and WSBC Delegate)
- Treasurer: Carolyn S.

Representatives:

- Monday 7 pm: Josephine C.
- Tuesday 7 pm Zoom: Terrek G.
- Wednesday 9:30 am Schaumburg: June L. (also Designated Downloader and Alternate WSBC Delegate)
- Friday 9 am Zoom: Maureen R. (also Zoom Administrator)
- Friday 7:30 pm: Neal M.
- Saturday 8 am Zoom: Cathleen F.
- Saturday 11 am Northbrook: Sarah J.

Visitors: No visitors were present.

Opening Ceremonies:

- Susan M. declared a quorum was present.
- June L. read the 12 Steps, Carolyn S. read the 12 Traditions, Neal M. reflected on Tradition 3 (Identity), and Maureen R. read the long version of the 3rd Concept of OA Service (Trust).
- The Agenda was adopted as amended.
- Terrek G. read the Standing Rules, which were adopted as written.
- The February 2026 SNI Minutes were adopted as amended.

Reports:

- **Designated Downloader:** June L.
 - June's report was sent out in the pre-meeting eblast and **posted on our website** (OACHicagoSNI.org, click on Downloader tab).
 - **Highlights** and new information were sent out in the document "News from SNI".
- **Vice Chair:** Susan M.
 - Susan's Vice Chair report was sent in the pre-meeting eblast and will be part of these minutes.
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn S.
 - The **January Year to Date Budget Report** was posted to our website (OACHicagoSNI.org, Resources, SNI Year-to-Date.).
 - The **Monthly Financial Report** was emailed to the SNI Voting Members.
- **Region 5 Representatives:** Susan M. and Diane M.
 - Susan's report was sent in the pre-meeting eblast and will be attached to these minutes.
 - Here are a few take-aways from Diane:

- Friday PM began with a focus on THE POWER OF WE with members sharing.
- OA currently has 13 Specific Focus Group categories (sometimes called “special”, but the preferred term is “specific”. We discussed whether these groups were unitive or divisive. Traditions to keep in mind include 1, 4, 10, and 12. A concern was shared about whether the WSBC delegates would feel free to express their opinion without fear of negative labels.
- It was gratifying to see the board and assembly’s support of the Chair attending the Region Chair Committee meeting in Warsaw, Poland this fall.
- Our new Region Secretary, Kerry M. shared her experience of stepping into this role resulting in new skills, including using new tools. She reminded us of the famous quote: God doesn’t call the equipped; He equips the called.
- Our Trustee Liaison, Juliette, reminded us to be careful of where we get images for flyers, etc., as there could be copyright issues (resulting in suits against OA). Canva (a graphic design platform) has free visual content. Might using this service conflict with our 7th tradition of being self-supporting?
- WSO Managing Director Dan Sandweiss is retiring after this year’s WSBC.
- OA suffered a financial loss from last year’s convention.
- **Twelfth Step Within (TSW) Committee:** From Paul A.
 - There were 106 participants at our February 28th Recovery Event
 - Paul would like to plan our next event to be in-person in June or September.
 - He is looking for a co-chair. Interested members may text Paul at 847-997-2610.

Business:

- **Motions**
 - Policy Motion 1, to amend Article II, Responsibilities and Duties of Officers, Representatives, and Technical Service Positions of SNI, Section A. Technology by adding technical service positions to the list of those who need to have access to the internet and a working email address to efficiently participate in SNI.
 - This motion was adopted.
 - Amended Bylaw Motion 1, to amend Article III, Members, Section 4. Voting Membership, by adding Technical service positions —provided that the position holder is an OA member.
 - This motion was adopted as amended.
 - Bylaw Motion 2, to amend Article V. Meetings, Section 5. Quorum
 - This motion was postponed until April.

Wrap up:

- **The next SNI meeting** is scheduled to be held hybrid on April 4, 21026, 10 am – noon CT with the in-person part at Buffalo Grove Youth Center.
- The meeting was closed at 12:05 with the Serenity Prayer.

Susan M., Acting Recording Secretary

March 2026 SNI Vice Chair Report

- The meeting list was updated Feb 7, 2026.
- The list of group reps, liaisons, and contact persons was updated and sent to the voting members of SNI on March 1st.
- Amended the February minutes by changing: “declare ...” to “declared that a quorum was present.”
- Bylaws motion 2 was updated and emailed to our eblast list on February 8th.
- I submitted the results of our Agenda Questionnaire on February 14th.
- We have an amendment to Bylaws motion 1, which will be included in the pre-meeting eblast.
- I was greatly blessed by attending our Recovery Event, February 28th. I saw many of you there. If you missed it, you may want to listen to the recording of the speakers, which is expected to be posted on our website (OACHicagoSNI.org).
- All the motions from the Agenda Questionnaire have been added to the WSBC Agenda.
- At our April meeting, we are scheduled to discuss WSBC issues, so I understand the issues from your perspectives.

Susan M., SNI Vice Chair

Region 5 2026 Spring Assembly report by Susan M.

The Region 5 2026 Spring Assembly was held virtual via Zoom Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th.

Friday evening:

- I attended the OA meeting.
- Our Trustee Liaison led a workshop on whether specific focus groups add to or take away from OA unity. Included in the discussion was sharing guidelines; members should be able to talk about whatever might threaten their abstinence.
- For the Intergroup sharing, each intergroup shared successes and challenges. A common challenge was difficulty filling service positions. Some of the strengths were in the area of events and public information. I was reminded that committee members don't need to be voting members of the intergroup.
- At the Illinois state meeting, we discussed having another All Illinois Day. We will be reaching out to Illinois intergroups who were not present.

Saturday

- There were 3 business sessions. We had 24-26 voters present, plus 4 non-voters.
- While 62% of our intergroups were represented, there were only about 22% of the total number of eligible representatives.
- Three of the representatives were Green Dots (first time representatives).

- We passed all 9 of the motions we were scheduled to address (some with amends), including 4 that were originally scheduled to be addressed last fall.
- This fall, the Region Chairs Committee will be meeting in Poland.
- We need to be careful about the images we use to avoid copyright infringement. There was also discussion about whether using free images is in keeping with Tradition 7.
- The flyer for the 2026 Region 5 Convention is available, and registration is scheduled to open by the end of April.
- I am serving on the nominating committee. We are looking for candidates to run for Region 5 Chair and Treasurer this fall.
- I am chair of the Bylaws Committee and a member of the Intergroup-to-Intergroup Subcommittee of the Outreach Committee of the Whole.
- We are looking for intergroups to host the 2027 or the 2028 Region 5 Convention.
- The Region 5 Treasurer plans to start offering regular meetings for Intergroup Treasures, perhaps every 2 or 3 months.
- The Media Committee is working on a newsletter. Anyone may contribute. (Another opportunity for service!)
- The Intergroup-to-Intergroup Subcommittee is looking for ways we can support our intergroups.
- The Twelfth Step Within Subcommittee sees abstinence and emotional sobriety as needs of the fellowship they plan to help address. A small step we can each take is making outreach calls on the 12th of every month.
- For the Parliamentary Moment, our parliamentarian discussed how virtual standing rules need to be different than in-person standing rules. (Her slide show will be part of Packet C.)
- Some insights shared:
 - There are many reasons to “pick-up”, but no excuses.
 - There is no ME in WE. Without WE, there is only ME.
 - People may be more willing to sign up for short term projects that for longer service positions.
 - If you want what this program has to offer, do service.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to do service!

Susan M., Region 5 Representative