

This is an unadopted draft. If you have suggestions for improving the minutes, please tell me as soon as possible by email (susan.m.oe@gmail.com). Thank you for your service!

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Suburban North Intergroup (SNI) was hybrid, with the in-person portion of the meeting at the Buffalo Grove Youth Center. Susan M. opened the meeting at 10 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 6 pm Zoom: Shari D. (also Media Coordinator)
- Tuesday 7 pm Zoom: Terrek G.
- Wednesday 9:30 am Schaumburg: June L. (also Designated Downloader and Alternate WSBC Delegate)
- Thursday 12 pm Crystal Lake: Diane M. (also Alternate Region 5 Representative)
- Saturday 11 am Northbrook: Sue S.

Other Service Positions:

- Maureen R. (Zoom Administrator)

Visitors: There were no visitors.

Opening Ceremonies:

- Diane M. read the 12 Steps, June L. read the 12 Traditions, Susan M. reflected on the 6th Tradition (Solidarity), and Maureen R. read the long version of the 6th Concept of OA Service (Responsibility).
- Susan M. declared a quorum was present.
- The Agenda was adopted as amended.
- Shari D. read the Standing Rules, which were adopted as written.
- The April SNI Minutes were adopted as written.
- The May SNI Minutes were adopted as written.

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.
 - The WSBC report was sent out May 9th and will be part of these minutes.
 - I plan to participate in the interview of 3 trustee candidates on Monday, June 8, at 3 pm.

- Please be considering how we wish to make sure every representative has a current *Twelve Concepts of OA Service* pamphlet. (They are available as a paper copy or an e-book and used to be included in the representative's physical SNI Handbook.
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn S.
 - The **April Budget Report** was posted to our website (OACHicagoSNI.org, Resources, SNI Year-to-Date) and also sent out in the pre-meeting eblast.
 - The **April Monthly Financial Report** was emailed to the SNI Voting Members on May 31st.
 - Carolyn filed the SNI income taxes.
 - Our PO box was temporarily closed, but is currently open to receive mail. If you had mail returned, please resend it.
- **Region 5 Convention raffle basket:** Diane M.
 - The theme of the basket is hydrangeas.
 - Susan M. plans to deliver the basket when she goes to the convention.

Business:

- **How to make SNI more efficient?** We discussed surveying our meetings to determine what they would like use to do for them and if a different day/time or format or something else would contribute to more participation.
- **TSW Committee:** We are looking for a chair or co-chairs. We have a possible program for an in-person recovery event.
- **Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee:** Examples of possible projects:
 - Putting posters up on public bulletin boards
 - Personalizing a letter introducing OA to post high school educational institutions
 - Having a display at health fairs or trade shows
 - Taking *The Courier* newsletter to health professionals
- **Any member of an SNI** may work on such projects, do committee work, and (if meet the committee chair requirement, including at least a 6 months of current abstinence) even chair a committee.

Wrap up:

- **The next SNI meeting** is scheduled to be via Zoom only on July 11, 2026, 10 am – noon CT. We will meet on the 2nd Saturday of July because the first Saturday is a federal holiday.
- The meeting was closed at 11:49 am with the Serenity Prayer.

Susan M. Acting Recording Secretary

2026 WSBC Report (updated May 18, 2026)

The **2026 World Service Business Conference** (WSBC) was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 21-25. I was privileged to represent SNI as your delegate.

In preparation for the conference, I read documents and viewed tutorials posted on the WSBC page of oa.org, as well as on the Delegate Secure Web Page. I attended the two Meet the Make sessions and the Literature Q&A session, and listened to the recordings.

I was assigned as a **mentor** to a first-time delegate (a “Green Dot”) from Region 5 and was able to guide her in preparing for conference ahead of time, as well as mentoring her during the conference.

I also picked a **roommate** from a list of delegates needing roommates, and so got acquainted with a member from Washington state who I probably would not have even met otherwise.

I flew into Albuquerque **Tuesday, April 21**, in time to take the grocery shuttle to buy my groceries for the rest of the week. It was on the grocery shuttle that I met my Green Dot in person for the first time. That evening I attended the All About Conference workshop, which was a valuable review of Parliamentary Procedures and how to navigate through the conference.

Monday through Saturday, there were 3 or 4 **OA meetings held each day** (a total of 20 meetings). Most of them were held during meal times (breakfast, lunch, supper) when it was acceptable to bring food to the meeting. Others were held at 9 pm or later. I went to 6 of those meetings. The level of vulnerability and recovery was touching and inspiring.

Wednesday morning the Region Chairs Committee presented the **Forum: Unlocking Recovery Through the Power of We**. It was a fun and inspirational workshop that I hope to help facilitate for one of SNI’s in-person recovery events.

Committees met after the Forum Wednesday morning, then again in the afternoon. I am on the **Bylaws Committee**. Since there was a motion that we suspected would be adopted (and it was) to eliminate the Bylaws Committee and create a standing Reference Committee, we spent much of our committee time brainstorming how that transition would work.

Wednesday evening was the **Region 5 delegate dinner**. We took the Dinner Shuttle to Old Town and ate at the very popular Church Street Café. Two other regions had their delegate dinners there at the same time. Generously, Region 5 picked up our tab.

After dinner, I went to the **workshop: Keeping the Lights On**, which addressed the 7th tradition, both with finances and service.

I started Thursday morning with the **Reference Subcommittee** orientation meeting, as I was one of Region 5's 2 delegates assigned to Reference. [Since the motion to replace the Bylaws Committee with the Reference Committee was adopted, only 5 delegates plus the 2 co-chairs will continue working on the new Reference Committee until the 2027 WSBC. I am one of the members of that small group. The rest of the delegates who were in the Bylaws Committee this year will have the opportunity to choose another committee to work on until the next Conference.]

There were **5 Business Meetings**: The morning meetings (Thursday—Saturday) were 3 hours long and the afternoon sessions (Thursday and Friday) were 4 hours long, including breaks. Each meeting started with the Serenity Prayer in at least 2 languages, plus other readings. I was privileged to read the Traditions at Business Meeting I.

The meetings were always interesting and sometimes surprising. I love that in OA, everyone has a voice, and I get to grow by learning about other's perspectives and situations about which I was clueless. Frequently, what I think is an easy decision (yes or no) becomes much more involved when others explain their position. And it is inspiring to see people calmly discuss what they passionately disagree on.

There were **54 Green Dots**. The credentials report at each of the 5 business meetings was the same: **162 registered voters**.

The **Conference volunteers** were introduced at each of the business meetings, as they each served in various positions and for various lengths of time. (Volunteering at Conference is a great way to see how the worldwide group conscience works!)

Thursday, at **Business Meeting I**, introductions were made of the Trustees, WSO staff, Region Chairs, Center Mic Monitor (Denise O from Region 5), Conference Support Committee, and volunteers, and then roll call was taken by region, as delegates stood up when their location (country, state, etc.) was announced. There were 2 amendments to the standing rules, one of which only one was adopted. Our parliamentarian gave a slideshow presentation "Understanding Amendments". We have been promised a copy of the slides. The Delegate Briefing was followed by the Consent Agenda. There was a Q&A session for reports from Officers, Regions, and Committees, followed by the adoption of our new literature.

During **Business Meeting II**, after the preliminaries, there were Trustee Nominee speeches and Q&A sessions. Then we started addressing the remaining motions.

Thursday evening, a **PIPO workshop: How and Why We "Give It Away to Keep It"** was presented while I was in a Reference Subcommittee meeting. I was able to pick up an interesting handout ahead of time and get notes from a fellow delegate. There are many ideas for us to explore as an intergroup, and as groups and individuals.

Friday, during **Business Meeting III**, we voted for the Trustee Nominees and continued to address motions. We addressed more motions during Business Meeting IV, as well as took a 7th Tradition collection of \$7428.86 US, plus 15 Euros, plus \$50 Canadian.

The Friday evening **workshop was “Attraction Rather Than Promotion: Sharing and Service Sustain Our Recovery”**. Again, I was in the Reference meeting and was able to get notes from a fellow. Growing the Fellowship was part of the discussion, with more ideas we can explore.

Saturday, during **Business Meeting V**, we heard the Conference Committee reports, finished addressing the motions on the Agenda plus the Emergency New Business Motion.

We had counted standing votes for three motions and ballot votes twice, besides the election. Those are the only votes for which there was a specific count of how many delegates voted each way.

Saturday evening was the **banquet**, after which out-going Trustee Meg M. shared her inspiring recovery story. As soon as the DJ entered the room, the party began!

Meeting for almost a week in person is a great way to connect with my fellows and “do life” together. The **connections** I made give me joy and are precious to me and my recovery.

On Sunday, I flew home feeling overwhelmingly joyful and blessed.

Conference result details:

Motion	Content	Result
A	Updating “chairman” to “chair”	Adopted on Consent Agenda
B	Add <i>Plain Language Big Book</i> to OA approved lit	Adopted
C	Include budget and financial reports in Delegate Binder	Adopted on Consent Agenda
D	Renaming of the Telephone tool	Withdrawn
E	Replacing “overeating” with “eating” in Preamble	Adopted
F	Allowing meeting contacts to have an email address listed in Find a Meeting	Adopted on Consent Agenda
G	Providing Delegate contact list before or at WSBC	Adopted as amended
H	Instead of suggested closings, suggest use of any of...	Pulled from Consent agenda, Adopted
I	Add the Serenity Statement to the suggested closings	Adopted as amended to include the wording of the Serenity Statement

J	Add Ethnically Jewish specific focus category	Defeated
K	Establish Virtual Retreat	Referred to the Convention Committee
M	Change Publication date of AA lit that is OA approved	Defeated
1	Update name of Service Boards to Service Bodies and Conforming Motions	Adopted
2	Allowing group conscience to change how Steps and Traditions are read in meeting	Withdrawn
3	Change overeater to eater in Trad 5	Defeated
4	Change overeater to eater in Step 12	Withdrawn
5	Allow service bodies instead of groups to ratify changes to 12 & 12	Withdrawn
6	Replace Bylaws Committee with Reference Committee and Conforming Motions	Adopted
7	Remove example of vice chair	Defeated
Emergency New Business	Grant 1-year licenses to publish and distribute translated literature while waiting for new licensing system	Adopted as amended
Literature	Grant the Conference Seal of Approval to the revised <i>Unity with Diversity Checklist</i>	Adopted
Literature	Grant the Conference Seal of Approval to <i>Healing the Mind, Body, and Spirit: Mental Health and Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous</i>	Adopted

Comments on motions:

- Motion D (to rename of the tool Telephone) was withdrawn, because as it was discussed with the Reference Subcommittee and interested delegates, it became apparent that the one thing we agreed on is that Telephone needed to be in the title of the tool
- The Serenity Statement adopted in motion I: I seek the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Newly elected Trustees (for 3-year term):

- Alexandra D., Region 9, United Kingdom (1st term)
- Alice W., Region 1, Oregon, USA (1st term)
- Beverly M., Region 1, Oregon, USA (2nd term)
- Gary D., Virtual Region, Florida, USA (2nd term)
- Karen C., Region 3, Texas, USA (1st term after 1-year appointment)
- Michelle D., Region 2, California, USA (1st term)

Outgoing Trustees: BJ J., Meg M., Mike K.

Newly elected Executive Board:

- Bob L., Chair
- Cyndy L., 1st Vice Chair
- Cindy C., 2nd Vice Chair
- Beverly M. Treasurer
- Susan M.
- Gary D.

Twenty countries were represented: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Holland, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, Spain, United States, Wales.

Twelve languages were represented: American Sign Language, Danish, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Welsh.

The Delegate **Binder was available in eleven languages.**

Each Business Meeting was started with the **Serenity Prayer** in at least two or more languages. The non-English languages shared were: Italian, Greek, French, Indonesian, Spanish, Farsi, and Danish.

Notes from reports:

- Historically, **articles submitted** for publication on the *Lifeline* blog had to be submitted in English. Submissions are now accepted in all languages.
- **Strategic Planning Themes:**
 - Year one (2025-26) “The Power of We”
 - Year two (2026-27) “Our Solution Is for Life”
 - Year three (2027-2028) “How Did I Save a Life Today?”
- Bob L., the chair of the Board of Trustees, and a couple OA staff members participated in a **“Day of Sharing”** with other 12 Step fellowships. Of the 37 fellowships invited, 20 attended. Topics included publication issues, representation and accessibility, and sponsorship and service.
- **New literature** that is now available:
 - In the Document Library:
 - *Tough Questions in OA Recovery Workshop*
 - *Guidelines for Small Meetings*
 - *From Slip or Relapse to Recovery*
 - *Virtual Welcome Room*
 - In the Bookstore:
 - *To the Newcomer*
 - *To the Man Who Wants to Stop Eating Compulsively, Welcome*
 - *Sponsorship in OA*
 - There are more updated Board-Approved documents coming.
 - Audio books are now available and more are in process.
 - Three books are offered as print on demand:

- *A New Beginning*
- *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous*, 2nd ed., Large Print
- *Lifeline Sampler*
- While mail-in literature orders will continue to use price-based shipping rates, online or phone orders are expected to have **weight-based shipping** starting in July.
- It is important to **avoid copyright infringements!** See OA's *Guidelines for Using Copyrighted Material and Trademarks and Free Licensed Images, translation, and Graphic Design Platform for Intergroups and Service Boards Registered as Nonprofits/Charities* in the Document Library at oa.org.
- Watch for the Board-Approved **100-Pounder Pamphlet**, which is in the works.
- The **Professional Exhibits Fund** is underutilized. Let's consider applying.

Heard at WSBC:

- "Grateful to know it is a disease and not a moral issue."
- "Contributions to OA are a gratitude and an ownership."

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Fellowship at the World Service level. It has been a great opportunity and blessing.

Susan M., SNI Delegate to WSBC

June 2026 SNI Vice Chair Report

- I **have applied** for the vacant trustee position. Applications are due June 1st, so I won't know the results until after then.
- **All our meetings have been checked** on Find a Meeting and are listed properly.
- Sunday 4 pm **Big Book meeting has been canceled** and our meeting list has been updated, submitted for posting on our website, and sent to our eblast list.
- OA's new **Find a Meeting** includes much new information
 - including frequency of meetings, duration, rotating agenda (up to 5 weeks), name of group, up to 4 contact persons, etc.
 - To be a contact person, you must submit an email address. It will not be published unless you choose to have it published. Please do not publish an email address that contains your last name.
- I made **editorial changes** to the draft of the May minutes before it was posted (but after it was sent out to the SNI e-blast list).
- On the old oa.org website, one could find/update **service body information** by clicking on "Find a Service Body" on the Find a Meeting page. Now, it is listed under "Service Bodies" in the menu (3 horizontal bars in upper right corner) on oa.org.
- I sent my **WSBC report** to the SNI email list on May 9th.

- In an effort to be more efficient, I would like us to not restate information in reports, but take the **“report” time** to share new information and answer any questions.
- **Next month**, we will be meeting on July 11th, the second Saturday of the month. We probably won't be doing official business, as we do not expect to have a quorum. We can work on Public Information, Professional Outreach, and/or Twelfth Step Within projects (which would be considered committee work).

Susan M., SNI Vice Chair

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