

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

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Suburban North Intergroup (SNI) was via Zoom only on September 12, 2026. 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 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 7:30 pm: Neal M.
- Saturday 11 am Northbrook: Sarah J.

Other Service Positions:

- Maureen R. (Zoom Administrator)

Visitors:

- Wanda C.

Opening Ceremonies:

- Josephine read the 12 Steps, June read the 12 Traditions, Neal reflected on the 9th Tradition (Structure), and Maureen read the long version of the 9th Concept of OA Service (Ability).
- Susan declared a quorum was present.
- The Agenda was adopted as written.
- June read the Standing Rules, which were adopted as written.
- The June, July, and August 2026 SNI Minutes were adopted as they were amended before the pre-meeting eblast.
- Seventh Tradition Collection was announced.
 - If your group has not already read the annual letter of appeal at four meetings, please do that.
 - It was suggested that those who attend virtual meetings find a way to keep track of when they attend each of their meetings, and periodically send their 7th Tradition to the meeting treasurer.

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 premeeting eblast and will be part of these minutes.
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn S.
 - The July 2026 **Budget Report** has been posted to our website (OACHicagoSNI.org, Resources, SNI Year-to-Date.).
 - The July 2026 **Monthly Financial Report** was emailed to the SNI Voting Members.

Business:

- The possible merger of SNI with Turning Point Intergroup was discussed.
 - We would prefer not to dissolve SNI. Yet a merger may be better than dissolving SNI without plans for our groups.
 - It was suggested that members of SNI visit Turning Point Intergroup's meetings to get a feel for what their intergroup is like—if it is a good fit for us.
 - It was also suggested that we let our virtual meetings know that they have the option of affiliating with one of the virtual intergroups in the Virtual Region.
 - The next meeting to discuss possible mergers with other Chicagoland intergroups has been scheduled:
 - October 21 at 7 pm
 - All are welcome. Contact Susan M. for login information.
- A possible bylaw change was discussed:
 - It was decided to have a motion written to indicate that if we were planning to have our meetings affiliate with a specific intergroup when we dissolve SNI, we would donate our prudent reserve to that intergroup and split our surplus funds to Region 5 and World Service using the suggested split.
- Elections October 3rd:
 - We discussed the importance of having nominees to run for our board positions as well as for region representative and WSBC delegate.
- 2027 Budget:
 - We will be discussion budgeting items at our November meeting and hopefully adopting our 2027 budget in December.

Wrap up:

- **The next SNI meeting** is scheduled to be hybrid or via Zoom on October 3, 2026, 10 am – noon CT with the in-person part at Buffalo Grove Youth Center.

- There was a question as to whether it will be better to meet only via Zoom to facilitate elections. That will be determined and announced.
- The meeting was closed at noon with the Seventh Step Prayer and the Responsibility Pledge.

Susan M. Acting Recording Secretary

September 2026 SNI Vice Chair Report

- **I updated the Draft of the August SNI minutes:**
 - Between them being sent out to those present at the meeting and being posted—by adding another note on the Treasurer report, better wording about budgeted amounts that may be increased, and better introducing the merger discussion.
- Reminders:
 - SNI has permission to use a specific **OA logo** (that includes our service body name). We have been using it on event posters and our website. The permission needs to be reapplied for every other year. (This should be addressed this November.)
 - SNI voting members: Let me know if your **SNI Handbook** needs updating.
 - SNI owns physical copies of the **OA Handbook for Members, Groups and Service Bodies: Everything You Need to Know About OA's Structure**, one for each board position and extras to be loaned to representatives.
- Comments on the possibility of a **merger with one of more other intergroups**.
 - We cannot effectively serve our groups without sufficient trusted servants to do the work.
 - “Many hands make light work.” When there are only a few volunteers to do all the service necessary, there are threats of burnout, further depleting our workforce.
 - If we become a part of a larger intergroup, we will have a larger pool of members to pull from. The number of positions may not increase, so there is a greater possibility that all the positions will be filled, and the intergroup can be healthier as they adhere to rotation of service.
 - This isn't about them and us. Whatever intergroup we serve in, it will be our intergroup, in which we will have a voice.
 - It has been suggested that rather than all 4 Illinois Chicagoland intergroups combining to form one intergroup, we form 2 intergroups:
 - SNI join Turning Point Intergroup (TPI) which is in Chicago, and
 - Chicago West Intergroup Far-out (CHI-WIF) join Chicago Suburban Southwest Intergroup (CSSI)
 - From what I hear, the merger process takes some time to accomplish.

- It currently sounds like to merge into TPI, we would dissolve SNI according to our bylaws, then each meeting will have the option to affiliate with TPI.
- Let's look at our bylaws to see if there is anything we would want to change before a merger happens, such as contributing part of our funds to our new intergroup, if we decide to merge. If we find changes we want to make, we can vote on them at our November meeting.
- Some **budget considerations**:
 - The 2027 budgeted amount for the post office box and the Zoom account need to be raised.
 - Some other expenses that may go up include the storage unit, insurance, website, etc.
 - We used to provide SNI meetings with *The Twelve Concepts of OA Service* pamphlet to be kept in the SNI Handbook. Many representatives no longer keep a physical handbook.
 - Consider what projects and events you would like SNI to sponsor. Some ideas:
 - A Public Information campaign or
 - A Professional Outreach campaign or tradeshow
 - Recovery events and workshops
- Consider stepping up your service! **SNI elections** are held in October (Oct 3 this year). Positions that are up for election are: Chair, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Region 5 Representative, and World Service Business Conference Delegate. Consider stepping up to do service at this level. Remember that God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called!
 - If enough qualified people step up to do service as group reps and beyond, we may not need to consider a merger.
- The 2026 Region 5 Convention in Indianapolis, IN, was full of recovery and fun. Start planning for next year's convention, October 1-3, in Minneapolis, MN.

Susan M, SNI Vice Chair