

OSPA Intergroup Minutes – October 2024

Zoom URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89826297321> | Meeting ID: 898 2629 7321

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024

Time: 12:15 – 1:15 pm Eastern Time

Attendees: Mackenzie (Chair), Cathryn (Treasurer), Kirra (Host), Greg, Mark, Nina, Isabella, Agi G, Emma, Molly (Webmaster), Emily (Secretary), Neilee, Trinity, Ajooni

Absent: Mera (Email support)

1. Opening

The meeting opened with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer at 12:15 pm ET.

A timekeeper was appointed and [The 12 Traditions of OSPA](#) were read.

Last month’s meeting minutes were approved.

2. Reports

- **Treasurer:** The treasurer gave an update on OSPA’s finances. The only fees from last month were \$4.61, the standard PayPal fee. The treasurer’s reports are attached below for ease of reference:

TREASURER REPORTS	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Beginning of month's balance	4,143.60	3,973.39	4,139.79	4,227.54	4,200.17	4,237.41	4,255.72
Total contributions	54.00	177.00	94.00	70	46	26	90
Total fees and expenses	224.21	10.60	6.25	97.37	8.76	7.69	4.61
End of month's balance	3,973.39	4,139.79	4,227.54	4,200.17	4,237.41	4,255.72	4,339.31
Prudent reserve	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Remaining surplus	2,973.39	3,139.79	3,227.54	3,200.17	3,237.41	3,255.72	3,339.31

As requested, the treasurer also gave a report on annual averages which are included below.

- Average monthly donations - \$41.15
- Average monthly expenses - \$49.65
- Monthly deficit - \$8.50

It was noted that the averages are based on the current year, 2024. The bulk of OSPA’s expenses occur in the beginning months (Jan and Feb) and then are less the rest of the year.

- **Webmaster:** The webmaster reported on OSPA’s website statistics from the past 30 days compared to the previous month. The website received 7 form submissions, 757 unique visitors from 45 countries and 1,571 sessions. 17% of visitors were returning, 83% were new. 68% of sessions were from mobile devices; 32% were from desktops;

and less than 1% came from tablets. The most viewed pages (beyond the homepage) were Meetings, Literature, Newcomers and About OSPA.

- **Tax & Legal Committee:** The chair of the Tax & Legal Committee reported that the Committee was considering implementing bylaws and had generated a set of bylaws using AI. A member of the committee is meeting with an attorney in Florida to discuss these, and will provide an update following this meeting.
- **Email Support:** The email support rep was absent so the webmaster delivered her report that 10 email requests came through and were answered.
- **Chip Representatives:** The US Chip Representative was absent so was unable to provide an update. The UK Chip Representative reported they sent no chips this month.

3. Meeting Representative Updates

Tuesday 11pm meeting representative reported that the meeting is continuing to share the call for submissions to the Daily Reader. There were no updates from the other individual meeting representatives.

4. Reports from Special Committees

- There were no reports.

5. Unfinished Business

Discussion of questionable items in the Our Story section of the website was ongoing. There were no updates but Molly M committed to reaching out to Jamie (who was initially reviewing this) to get an update and offered to support on that.

6. New Business

- a) Nina moved to approve that a new service board be created called the OSPA Online Intergroup, directly responsible to online OSPA groups that choose to register with it. As part of the proposal, the current OSPA Intergroup would be re-named OSPA World Service. Details of the proposal are included in the appendices. The motion was seconded and it was opened for discussion.

Discussion: A discussion took place regarding whether OSPA has enough volunteers to fill the positions required for the proposed new OSPA Online Intergroup. It was confirmed that only two key roles are essential: a Zoom Account Manager and a Treasurer. All other positions were deemed optional. It was also raised that there may be confusion if two OSPA “intergroups” exist – and would they have conflicting messages? For example, one group saying meetings have to be fully self-supporting, and the other saying you don’t have to be. Questions were also raised

about whether this proposal contradicted a recent Intergroup decision, which passed a motion that stated meetings should be fully self-supporting via individual treasurers. It was clarified that the goal of the proposal was to simplify processes, not complicate them. Similar models are already successfully functioning in other online fellowships. It was noted the proposal aims to reduce the burden on individual members, such as those taking on treasurer roles that involve personal risks like using their full names for banking, as well as more general risks like treasurers vanishing and meetings being left without an accountable service person. The centralized treasury, which is part of the proposal, would be a more cost-effective solution to the current solution in-place.

Amendment: An amendment was proposed to change the name of the OSPA Online Intergroup (OOI) to the OSPA Online Meeting Support Committee and to revisit this structure after three months as a trial run.

The initial motion was withdrawn.

Nina then motioned to form a separate committee within Intergroup, named the OSPA Online Meeting Support Committee, to support online meetings. This motion was seconded.

The motion was put to a vote: 4 in favor, 6 opposed, 2 abstentions (Chair does not vote).

- b) Two OSPA members from the southern hemisphere sent a representative to express their interest in starting a new meeting to align with their time zones. Members from Thailand and Australia proposed a 5:00 PM Thailand time meeting on Mondays. It was clarified that no formal motion is needed to start a new meeting, as the only requirement is a desire and willingness to do so. The webmaster confirmed that the new meeting's details, such as the time zone and start time, can be sent to her for posting on the website.
- c) A proposal was made to move the Intergroup meeting link on the Meetings page of the website from the top to the bottom. The webmaster confirmed she is happy to make this change.

Closing

The meeting closed with the "We" version of the Serenity Prayer at 1:14 pm ET.

Next Intergroup Meeting Date: Sunday, November 3 2024