

DRAFT OSPA Intergroup Minutes – December 2024

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

Date: Sunday, December 1, 2024

Time: 12:15 – 1:15 pm Eastern Time

Attendees: Mackenzie (Chair), Cathryn (Treasurer), Kirra (Host and acting Secretary), Greg (Traditions and Tax Committee), Nina, Isabella, Agi, Molly (Webmaster), Mera (Email support)

Absent: Jamie (Co-Chair/Tax Committee/ US Chip Representative) Emily (EU Chip Representative)

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. Attendees introduced themselves. Last month’s meeting minutes were approved.

2. Reports

- **Treasurer:** The treasurer gave an update on OSPA’s finances. There was \$266 in contributions and \$17.90 in fees (postage, paypal). The treasurer’s reports are attached below for ease of reference:

TREASURER REPORTS	NOVEMBER	
Beginning of month's balance	4,410.11	Average monthly expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 51.14 Average monthly intake after expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 61.82
Total contributions	266	
Total fees and expenses	17.9	
End of month's balance	4,658.21	
Prudent reserve	1000	
Remaining surplus	3,658.21	

- A question was raised about the balance, after the prudent reserve of 1K, and what it could/should be used for. It was agreed that this would be a topic best discussed under New Business.
- **Webmaster:** The webmaster reported on OSPA’s website statistics from the past 30 days compared to the previous month. The website received 2 form submissions, 686 unique visitors from 39 countries and 1,602 sessions. 20% of visitors were returning, 80% were new. 62% of sessions were from mobile devices; 37% were from desktops; and 1% came from tablets. The most visited pages were the meetings page then homepage, followed by literature and newcomers. Three meetings had updates posted to the website (meeting formats) - the Monday, Friday, and Saturday meetings.
 - A question was raised about the website and how it appears in search engines: the webmaster reports that she and another OSPA fellow had recently reviewed the SEO settings and believed they are sufficient, however did note we do not use google ads and/or other paid methods to increase visibility.
- **Tax & Legal Committee:** Per Greg nothing new to report at this time.

- **Email Support:** 3 emails received: one request for support, two related to publicity and media features.
- **Chip Representatives:** Jamie reported to a fellow (as she was absent) that she sent out a few chips in the US and at least one chip was sent out in the EU by Emily.

3. Meeting Representative Updates

The Monday Meeting reported that the script was updated on the website. The Tuesday Meeting reported increased attendance with new meeting time at 11PM EST. The new Saturday Meeting stated all is going well. No other reports from Meeting Reps at this time.

4. Reports from Special Committees

- There were no reports.

5. Unfinished Business

- Positions that remained open after last months elections were filled::
 - Molly agreed to be Webmaster for the next 6 months. It was then motioned and approved unanimously to call this position **Web Administrator** moving forward.
 - Mackenzie offered to fill the **Tech Support** position.
 - Kirra offered to be **Secretary**.
 - The **Social Media Account Moderator** position remained open and it was agreed to move a discussion around this long vacant role to New Business.
- The “Our Story” portion of the website was going to be reviewed by Jamie for alignment with the Traditions and more current information. Remains in **Unfinished Business** in her absence.

6. New Business

- to add a section to the preamble that explicitly refers to meeting safety.
 - This section will acknowledge that each meeting's atmosphere remains safe and welcoming by practicing Tradition 5: “Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the skin picker who still suffers.” Behaviors and words that interfere in carrying the message will not be tolerated, and groups may ask individuals to exit the meeting for interferences including: sarcasm, vulgarity, shaming, demeaning, belittling, terms that infer gas-lighting, bullying, and any usage of words or behaviors that would otherwise interfere with the traditions of OSPA and the recovery of OSPA members. Verbiage will be based on the “Safety Card for A.A. Groups” or N.A.’s “Safety Statement”.
 - The person who made this motion is not present, motion **tabled** for next meeting.
- **Discussion:** (Greg) on the OSPA Intergroup balance (after the prudent reserve) and whether or not it was against OSPA Traditions to keep this amount in holding without plans for its use. If so, what are ideas about where it could best be spent:

- Training Opportunities: There was a suggestion to explore Robert's Rules of Order training and nonprofit governance training. However, concerns were raised about insufficient funds and the need to clarify the scope and ensure adequate participation for cost-effectiveness.
- Use of Contributions: Members debated the appropriate use of contributions, particularly whether funds should be set aside for meeting-related expenses if individual meetings fall short on funding.
- Budget Allocations: setting aside funds for professional advising, website maintenance, and potential features was also suggested.
- A proposal was made to allocate \$1,000 for OSPA literature expenses but was later retracted to allow further discussion, including input from the literature committee and clarification on production needs.
 - Action steps:
 - Meeting participants agreed to further consider and come back to Intergroup with ideas.
 - Kirra will follow up with the Daily Reader committee on their potential printing needs.
- The group discussed the management of OSPA's social media accounts and the creation of a role to address this issue. Key points included:
 - **Social Media Presence:** The accounts (Instagram, Facebook, and possibly YouTube) are inactive, lack management, and may conflict with traditions regarding advertising and promotion.
 - **Proposed Actions:**
 - i. Investigate login information for existing accounts.
 - ii. Research how other 12-step programs handle social media to ensure alignment with traditions.
 - iii. Return to intergroup with findings for further discussion.
 - **Role Adjustment:**
 - i. A motion was passed to assign a short-term task of obtaining login credentials and preparing a report, rather than creating a permanent position.
 - ii. Cathryn agreed to complete this task, eliminating the need to formally announce the role.
- **Discussion:** (Cathryn) should we have a requirement that each motion be discussed 3 times at 3 different business meetings before coming to a vote? This is something she has seen in other 12 step groups.
 - to be discussed next month under **unfinished business**
- **Discussion:** (Molly) Web Admin requests a volunteer in another time zone to test the functionality of a meeting page which displays meeting times in the local time zone of the visitor. If functional, she will bring a motion next month to adopt that functionality.
 - Isabella volunteers to help and to be discussed next month under **unfinished business**

Closing

The meeting closed with the "We" version of the Serenity Prayer at 1:12 pm ET.

Next Intergroup Meeting Date: Sunday, January 5 2025