Inner Voice

Newsletter of New Freedom Intergroup of OA



April 2023

Step 4: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

• Spiritual Principle: Courage

Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole.

• Spiritual Principle: Autonomy

Concept 4: The right of participation ensures equality of opportunity for all in the decision-making process.

• Spiritual Principle: Equality

Promise 4: No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

Please Consider...

...giving service by joining us for our monthly business meeting, either as an observer or a voting representative! Every meeting can send up to two (2) voting representatives and as many observers as they would like to send. We love getting to hear from as many of our meetings and members as we can.

Here are some of the topics we'll be covering in our April meeting:

- Continue reviewing and discussing the results of the survey regarding possibly moving the NFI business meeting to another day or time
- Volunteer opportunities on committees and the board
- Adding new information to the Intergroup website

Here is all of the meeting information for you to easily join us! Topic: New Freedom Intergroup Business Meeting

Time: April 8, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Repeats every month on the Second Sat from 10:00 to 11:30AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87272181719?pwd=LzZucTk3dW5NTVlReHhtSzQyemlSdz09

Meeting ID: 872 7218 1719

Passcode: 883350

Last but not least, if you'd like to receive the monthly packet, which includes the full agenda, meeting minutes from the last month, treasurer's report, and any other documents for the monthly meeting, please let us know so that you can be added to the distribution list. If you have any questions, please reach out to Echo at chairnfi@gmail.com

Echo Guertin Chair, New Freedom Intergroup of OA 561-704-2917



The Gifts of Sponsorship

My name is Laurie, and I'm a recovering compulsive overeater. I've been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. The focus of my existence is to stand in a place of gratitude for what I am right now. It is not to stand in dissatisfaction around what I am not, what I will never be, or what I have lost. Within this core of gratitude is great admiration for the women who have mentored me in recovery as my sponsors, past and present.

The *Big Book* never mentions the word "sponsor" in the first 164 pages, but I cannot imagine bungling my way successfully through the wilderness of Twelve Step recovery without a guide. I just don't have a good sense of direction. The biggest problem I'd face trying to do OA recovery without a sponsor is instead of hearing options and alternate viewpoints, I'd remain in my black-and-white mind, only hearing my own voice agreeing with my skewed thought process that always led me to abuse food.

The gift of being sponsored seemed to me to be an enormous sacrifice on the part of the sponsor: the time they give up being part patient saint, part loving supporter (sometimes exasperated, often amused), part cheerleader, and part stern boundary-setter, all beyond any kind of reciprocity. But when I learned to sponsor, I came to see sponsoring itself as an even larger gift, not just to the sponsee, but to myself and my ongoing self-expansion project to live a life full of possibilities beyond my limited imagination.

The genius of Twelve Step recovery is that what we have is essentially peer counseling. People who were active addicts are mentored through the process of getting abstinent and discover themselves in the Twelve Steps. They go on to live a life of abstinence while learning to incorporate Step Principles into their daily existence. Then they show the process to the next still-suffering compulsive eaters, who show the next, ad infinitum. We are forever refreshing our own recovery as we hear and see the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions through the eyes of those who haven't known them before and are just realizing their magnitude and meaning in their own lives.

I am profoundly grateful to have walked in the door of OA, and I am even more grateful for sponsorship, giving and receiving.

— Laurie (Reprinted from Lifeline)

If you need help finding a sponsor or want to sponsor, please contact our NFI Sponsor coordinator:

Augusta L 912-508-4777, sponsor.nfig@gmail.com, augustalivingston1985@gmail.com

Step 4: "The Importance of Working All Twelve Steps"

Step 4: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

For those who haven't explored the oa.org website in some time, there are podcasts available for many different aspects of program. This 45-minute podcast on Step 4 is at https://lifeline.oa.org/step-four-the-importance-of-working-all-twelve-steps-podcast-series/ with the following intro and suggestions for discussion and journaling:

Stephanie, an abstinent compulsive overeater, and Nancy, a gratefully recovering and abstinent compulsive eater, host this workshop on OA's Fourth Step: "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

For Discussion and Journaling:

- Do I have reservations about starting a Fourth Step? What are they? How can God help me do this step?
- Am I hanging on to a grudge or resentment? Do I experience jealousy, envy, or guilt? Am I a perfectionist, or am I overly dependent?
- What am I willing to do today to start my Fourth Step inventory? What are some of the methods I can use to do a Fourth Step?

- Mark W., editor



More on Step 3 from the Region:

As one who grew up in the Christian church, I felt sure that the spiritual part of the OA program would be the easiest part of the journey. Good gracious, how wrong I was. My favorite chapter in the *Big Book* is "We Agnostics," because it illuminated for me that while I'd always believed in God, I had NEVER allowed God to participate in my life.

All of my life I told God, "Don't worry about me God, I've got this. I know you have a lot more important things to do and to focus on, so I'll keep doing this thing called 'life' on my own. If something comes up that I can't handle on my own I'll reach out (maybe) for help (but I probably won't reach out because I don't believe I'm worthy of your time or love)."

I knew that I had to make the decision to turn my will and life over to the care of God, even though a part of me was being dragged along with my decision, kicking and screaming. I knew that my self-will had brought me to the place of complete terror about my inability to control my eating and sugar addiction in the summer of 2022. What's more, I knew that the deepest part of my soul had been waiting — patiently — for permission to completely turn over my life to the care of God.

I am forever grateful to my first sponsor who, before taking me through Step 3, invited me to answer the question 'who is the God of my understanding?' The poetic love letter that flowed out of me, from the depths of my soul both surprised me and felt as familiar as my own heartbeat. Having a deep sense of my understanding of God, gave me the courage to take Step 3.

Since I made that decision, each day I have been able to breathe a little easier. Each day I am able to 'hear' God within me a little louder — guiding me, encouraging me, and correcting me when I lean out too far over my feet. For the rest of my days, I want God in charge of my life, and the fellowship of OA supports me and helps me keep moving toward that goal, one day at a time.

— Emilia H.

Tradition Four: Limits to Autonomy?

Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or OA as a whole.

Autonomy, or self-government is what tradition four is all about. Each OA group has the right to make decisions based on what is best for the group, and the members of the group. Meeting times, meeting formats, meeting locations, special events, special focus meetings, group conscious decisions, committees, abstinence requirements or suggestions for speakers/leaders and how to spend funds are some of the areas in which groups demonstrate autonomy.

You may wonder why, then, are most meetings somewhat similar – if groups can act as they wish?

While each meeting has its autonomy, the limit of that autonomy is that these governing decisions cannot affect "other groups or OA as a whole." For example, all groups are required to follow the twelve steps and traditions because not following these foundations of OA would negatively affect OA and other OA groups. These groups would no longer fit into the definition of an OA group; "any two or more compulsive overeaters who come together to practice the twelve steps and twelve traditions are considered a group as long as that group has no other affiliations, does not require anyone to practice any actions to be a member and is registered with the World Service Office." So, in making autonomous decisions, groups must consider the impact of those decisions, not only on their own members, but also on other OA groups and OA as a whole. Groups should also consider the impact of those decisions on the public perception of OA, as this effects OA as well.

The other limit to autonomy is that OA groups may not have affiliations other than OA. For example, meetings that occur on church property cannot be affiliated with that church. Church members may attend the meeting, but they attend as members of OA rather than as representing their church. Again, an OA group meets to practice the twelve steps and traditions, and to recover from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviors. Outside affiliations can negatively affect OA.



Practicing the fourth tradition keeps individuals and groups responsible for demonstrating their group autonomy, as well as their personal autonomy. For example, sponsors must acknowledge the autonomy of sponsees. Working this tradition allows us to practice the maintenance of appropriate boundaries within our individual relationships, in our groups, and in our community.

Lucy

Concept 4 - Participation

Concept 4: The right of participation ensures equality of opportunity for all in the decision-making process.

In Concept Four, Overeaters Anonymous protects the right of every OA member to participate in the decision-making process and group conscience process at OA business meetings. Participation in the business of OA includes direct support – group conscience discussions at meetings and voting at the local level.

Participation may also be indirect, such as entrusting elected delegates or trustees to participate and vote in other service body assemblies such as national and regional assemblies, national service boards, virtual service boards, and the World Service Business Conference (WSBC).

The implementation of Concept Four ensures the equal opportunity for the direct and delegated OA participation and embodies the democratic foundation of OA. The idea of "participation" can usually stop the misapplication or misuse of final authority, while reminding us that the "spiritual corporation" of OA should never include any members who are regarded as "second class."

The "Right of Participation" therefore reinforces Tradition Two, that no member is placed in "ultimate authority" over another. We perform our service tasks better "when we are sure we belong – when our 'participation' assures us we are truly the 'trusted servants' described in Tradition Two." (*The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated*)

The Twelve Concepts of OA Service, adopted by the World Service Business Conference (WSBC) in 1994, help us apply the steps and traditions in our service work. The OA Concepts define and guide our service practices and the overall structure that is responsible for conducting OA business.

These spiritual Concepts explain the structure of responsibilities required to provide service on a global scale. OA's 12 Concepts guide our trusted servants in their actions for group participation, decision making, voting, and the expression of minority opinions. The Twelve Concepts support our primary purpose of carrying OA's message of recovery to the still-suffering compulsive eater.

To learn more about our OA service structure, please check out **Service Bodies** on the OA website and read the pamphlet *The Twelve Concepts of OA Service*. If you wish to get involved or volunteer in Northern Florida New Freedom Intergroup, please visit https://oanfig.org/ and throw your hat in the ring!

- John K.

Highlights of the March NFI Business Meeting:

(Note: These are NOT the official minutes; they are only a recap of what was discussed. Official minutes are released after changes and approval in the next month's business meeting.)

New Freedom Intergroup business meeting was held March 11. Each meeting is welcome to send two voting members, and as many observers as desire to attend. The meeting is always the second Saturday of the month (unless otherwise decided) and runs for one and a half hours. Thus, the next business meeting is Saturday, April 8th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am by Zoom. (Meeting ID: 872 7218 1719, Password: 883350).

Highlights of what was covered at the March business meeting:

Service Opportunities:

• We need to fill the following service positions: Delegate, Parliamentarian, Young Persons subcommittee chair, and Ways and Means chair. Other committees also need volunteers to provide service.



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NEW FREEDOM INTERGROUP

Volunteers are still needed to help:

• **SOAR 8 Recovery Convention and Business Assembly**. This committee will be planning all the events to be held for the recovery convention and business assembly for fall 2023 in Tybee Island (near Savannah), GA. We will need people to plan and help with the sessions, theme, boutique, decorations, entertainment, get speakers and timers, arrange volunteers, set up hospitality, baskets and drawings...you name it, we need it! We need you – and there is no time like the present to get started giving service. Let Sandi JC or Augusta L know if you are interested.

Other Items of Note:

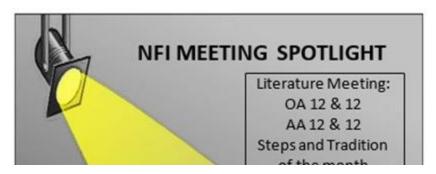
- All meetings are to let Chair know about changes in format. Thank you to those who sent us updates this month! They should be reflected on the website and meeting list.
- Continuing discussion of the results of the Intergroup survey: A lot of respondents listed that they would prefer an earlier start to the meeting, but keep it on Saturday. At the April business meeting we will take a vote on if we want to move the meeting to begin at 8 AM ET, with an end time of 9:30 AM ET.
- Thank you to Mark W. for accepting appointment to another 2-year term as Chair of the Newsletter.
- Upcoming SOAR 8 Business Assembly (Mar 17-19): Echo and Barb are attending as Region 8 committee chairs (TechWeb and Bylaws, respectively), Sandi JC and Georgette P are attending on behalf of the intergroup. After attending, reports on the assembly will be given at the April business meeting.

Trusted Servants and Committee Chairs (New emails)

GENERAL INFORMATION	Secretary will forward as needed		oanfig@gmail.com
Chair	Echo G.	561.704.2917	chairnfi@gmail.com
Vice Chair/Bylaws	Barbara C.	352.474.1366	vicechairnfi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carly B.	303.710.0589	nfitreasury@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandi JC	912.464.4231	oanfig@gmail.com
Delegate	VACANT—Consider doing service		delegatenfi@gmail.com
Newsletter/Meeting List	Mark W.	904.527.3433	innervoicenfi@gmail.com
Public Info/Prof. Outreach	Nancy K.	516.286.1888	piponfig@gmail.com
Young Persons	VACANT—Consider doing service		youngpeoplenfi@gmail.com
12th Step Within	Georgette P.	352.870.4454	ghabanero56@yahoo.com
Sponsor Coordinator	Augusta L.	912.508.4777	sponsor.nfig@gmail.com
Website	Brian B.	904.616.0608	websitenfi@gmail.com
Ways and Means	VACANT—Consider doing service		wandmnfi@gmail.com

Meeting Highlights

Have your group mentioned here!



From time to time we offer a place to note groups from our meeting lists, whether for a special event (workshop, holiday meeting), or because of a call to increase attendance, or for a change of location or hours.

If your group would like to be featured, let Barbara C. know at vicechairnfi@gmail.com.

- Mark W., editor



Can You Volunteer for Fun at the Beach?

We want everyone to have Fun and Fellowship at the Beach. To provide that weekend full of tricks and treats for our fellows on Halloween weekend (October 27-29, 2023) at Tybee Island (Savannah, GA), we need you to:

COME OUT AND HELP US PLAN!

New Freedom Intergroup will be hosting the SOAR 8 Recovery Convention and Business Assembly.

There is plenty of room and the need for volunteers. Bring your nicest treats (new ideas, not tricks) to the next planning meeting on:



Zoom Information: 886 0846 2612 Passcode: 018395

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88608462612?pwd=enJSNkc3b2ZiZFIET09hWjVrL0JpZz09

The Tybee planning committee:

Augusta L (Co-chair) 912-508-4777; email: augustalivingston1985@gmail.com Sandi JC (Co-chair) 912-464-4231; email: learningdisciple624@gmail.com

OA MATERIALS (bookstore.oa.org)

Pamphlets



Twelve Concepts of OA Service

\$2.00



Membership Survey Report

\$1.00



Recovery Checklist

Recovery Checklist

\$0.50



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SAVE THE DATE OCT 27-29, 2023

"Welcome Home, Y'all"

New Freedom Intergroup of OA (out of Jacksonville, FL) is hosting the SOAR 8 Fall Recovery Convention and Business Assembly. It will be face-to-face on Tybee Island, GA the weekend of October 27-29, 2023. More details about the meals and the registration flyer will be released soon.





We will be staying on the beach, within a 10-minute walk of Tybee Island Beach and Tybee Island Marine Science Center. This beach hotel is 0.4 mi (0.7 km) from Tybee Island Fishing Pier and Pavilion and 0.6 mi (0.9 km) from Back River Beach. Tybee Island is 20 minutes from downtown Savannah.

Hotel Tybee 1401 Strand Ave Tybee Island, GA, 31328, USA Call for reservations: 1-912-786-7777

If you even THINK you will be attending, make your hotel reservations now! (You <u>must</u> make your own reservations before 9/26//2023.) The Hotel requires a credit card to hold your reservation. Use code "SOAR2023" for special rates. Any reservations made after that date will be charged at their current room rate.

RATES: \$155 /Night Two Queen (Inland view) + \$15 /day parking + \$5 /night GA hotel fee + 14% taxes per night, (Total = \$199.50 /night.) This rate is valid for up to four people in the room. (If you get three roommates, each person would pay only ~\$50 per night, or \$100 for the weekend.). Rates are available for three days before and after the event. Rooms have refrigerators (but no microwaves). (Must place \$50 deposit per room for incidentals during the stay.) Each room will receive four drink tickets, three beach chairs and beach towels.

Cancellations: All guests will be charged one night's stay upon booking. Deposits are refunded or credited only if notice is received 7 (seven) days prior to arrival date (before October 19th) and a cancellation number must be obtained by guest.

Hotel check-in is at 4:00 PM, Friday; check-out is 11:00 AM Sunday.

There is NO free parking on the island. Day trippers will need to pay a rate of \$20/day to use the hotel parking area.



Events from All Over

Meet the Virtual Region Chair



12 PM ET (4 PM UTC) & 8:30 PM ET (12:30 PM UTC)
The Fourth Friday of Every Month

Bring your QUESTIONS and IDEAS

Join the DISCUSSION

Learn about UPCOMING EVENTS



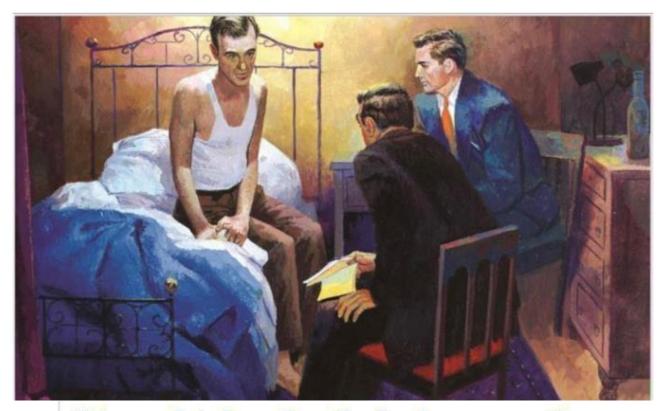
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87080400598?pwd=TnhOQm1EN1R1WWQ0N2xVbEJQQmtuQT09

Meeting ID: 870 8040 0598. Passcode: 120912

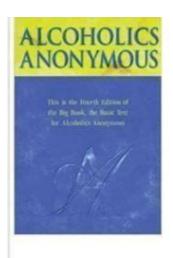


Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion; for this I am responsible.





Using scripts based on the beginners meetings in the 1940s: a focused introduction to the 12 step program in 4 weekly sessions.



OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
BACK TO BASICS
EVERY SUNDAY
7:30-9pm UK
2:30-4pm EST
11:30am - 1PM PST

ZOOM ID: 853 4685 2850 PASSWORD:121212









Pinellas Traditions Intergroup



PINELLAS TRADITIONS INTERGROUP invites you to The 13th ANNUAL OA FRANCISCAN CENTER RETREAT PRACTICING THE PRINCIPLES

JULY 28-30, 2023

WHAT: Three days of seasoned speakers, good fellowship, crafts, serenity and peace on the river

WHERE: The beautiful Franciscan Center Campus, 3010 Perry Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606

TIME: Check-in 4:00PM Friday Check-out by 11:30 AM Sunday

COST: Weekend Room & board \$266 for single occupancy or \$246 for double occupancy.

One day additional option is a <u>Saturday only fee</u> which is \$75 including 3 meals.

Both Options require a PTI registration.

An economical option is \$25 if received before June 1 or \$35 if received after that date.

Complete registration below and mail to:

Pinellas Traditions Intergroup

PO Box 294, Palm Harbor, FL 34682

Including a check made out to PTI for all fees.

Or pay online @oapinellas.org and email your registration

to Karen R@platoscloseton19@gmail.com.

* Be sure if paying online to include your name and "FR 2023"

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE July 10, 2023

- Space is limited to approximately 50 participants so register early.
- Call your friends and make plans to carpool with them.
- Please announce this retreat and print copies of this flier for your meetings.
- Save this flier for your information. See you on the peaceful Hillsborough River!
- This is a Fragrance Free Zone Please

Cut on the dotted line and mail this Retreat Registration Form PINELLAS TRADITIONS INTERGROUP 13th ANNUAL RETREAT				
NameAddress				
Phoneemail				
<u>Select your meal preference</u> Friday Dinner : Vegetarian Chicken Fish Saturday Dinner : Vegetarian Chicken Fish				
Single room Double Roommate name				
Would you care to volunteer in some service capacity this weekend? YesNo				



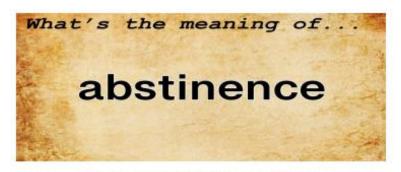
Save the Date!

Recovery: **Putting the Pieces Together**



OA Region 2 Convention Orange County, CA July 7-9, 2023

* In Person or Hybrid (en español tambien) * Fun, Fellowship, Recovery * Invite your friends * Website & Registration Coming Soon



ABSTINENCE WORKSHOP (VIRTUAL)

DATE: Sunday, May 21, 2023 TIME: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EDT) 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CDT)

Zoom Meeting ID: 871 0722 5137 Passcode: 866901 Join Zoom Meeting Direct Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87107225137?pwd=VEZmZ0w3a2tEMWtxL3hlU0liYXIWZz09

FEATURING: 3 speakers share their approach to abstinence Ask-it-basket session for questions and answers Time for individual sharing

o help carry the message of recovery, please consider giving a 7th tradition onation to Region 8 (https://oaregion8.org/region-8/contributions/) or more information, please contact Susan at: smfitzmaur@gmail.com





DONATIONS REPORT 2023		Mar	YTD TOTAL

General Fund / no meeting # specified		\$14.08	\$83.99
Jacksonville Groups	Grp#		
Mon: Shepherd of the Woods Church	00774		\$0.00
Tue: Lakewood United Meth Church	36763		\$0.00
Tue: 7pm Jacksonville (virtual)	800028		40.00
Wed: Step Study Mandarin	51223	\$90.78	\$205.39
Wed: JAX Beach-Wisdom at the Beaches	54507		\$0.00
Thur: Jacksonvile 9am - Our redeemer	57370		70.00
Thur: Newcomer, Lakeview Health	47756		\$0.00
Fri: Orange Park - 10am	03654	\$50.00	\$50.00
Sat: Saturday Steppers-Ponte Vedra Bch	51693		\$0.00
Sat: Super Saturday Lakeview	20025		\$0.00
Sat: Believe in Recovery First, Mandarin	32773	\$330.00	\$609.95
Gainesville Groups			
Mon: Big Book Study (Alachua)	51137	\$36.00	\$36.00
Thu: Unity Church(Acceptance)	50421	\$45.22	\$63.66
Wed: Gainesville Unity Church	57568		
Sat: 9:30 AM Welcome Home	48324	\$200.00	\$200.00
Other Florida Groups			
Many Dalm Coast St Mark by the See	38320	\$20.00	\$20.00
Mon: Palm Coast-St Mark by the Sea Tues: Lifesaver - Palatka	38464	\$20.00	\$20.00
Wed: Palm Coast - 10am	56604	\$65.00	\$0.00 \$165.00
Thu: Fernandina Beach	49101	\$65.00	\$165.00
Thu: Flagler Beach	15171	-	\$100.00
Sat: St. Augustine Serenity	00235	\$23.79	\$71.37
Sun: Palm Coast/Flagler Beach	56072	\$36.00	\$36.00
Southern Georgia Groups	30072	\$30.00	\$30.00
Tue: Jesup	54175		\$25.00
Wed: Douglas, GA	57445	_	\$20.00
Wed: Savannah - 5:30 pm	50301	\vdash	\$0.00
Thur: Brunswick	51988	\vdash	\$0.00
Sun: Savannah - 5pm	54362	\$28.64	\$85.92
Totals	34002	\$939.51	\$1,752.28
Don to WSO		\$281.85	01,102120
Don to SOAR8		\$93.95	

Where are your donations going?

According to our Seventh Tradition, we are self-supporting through our own contributions. To donate directly to Intergroup, write a check made payable to 'NFI' and mail to: OA NFI, PO Box 550842, Jacksonville, FL 32255; or log onto oanfig.org and scroll down to the 'donate' button. You may pay by PayPal or credit card.

When you contribute your 7th
Tradition donations, if you indicate
your group number, the donation
will be recorded for that specific
group. When we do not have a group
number to work with, we may
include the donations as unspecified.
Each 9, NFI tallies the group

Each 9, NFI tallies the group donations and sends 10% of the total to Region 8, with an additional 30% to the World Service Office.

Donations sent directly to World Service Office do not reflect in our group donations total.

Articles printed in this newsletter reflect the opinion of each individual OA member and do not represent OA as a whole. Intergroup meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The deadline to submit articles is the 20th of the month before the Intergroup meeting. Articles may be edited. When submitting articles, please include your name and phone number and whether or not you would like your name printed. This newsletter may be reproduced and enjoyed by other 12-steppers without written permission. If you would like to submit articles and/or comments, or if you would like to receive the Inner Voice in color as a pdf, send your email address to the Newsletter Chair at innervoicenfi@gmail.com.

