**Public Information/Professional Outreach (PIPO) Committee**

The main purpose of Public Information/Professional Outreach Committee (PIPO) is to carry the message of recovery to compulsive eaters who still suffer, as instructed in Step 12. OA is a program of attraction, not promotion. Members attract newcomers to OA when we:

* Inform the public about the program
* Inform health care professionals about the program so they may acquaint their patients and clients with OA
* Keep communication within the Fellowship open so members and groups can carry the message more effectively

A PIPO committee acts on behalf of its service body to provide information about the OA Fellowship to the local community. Note: The PIPO Committee is represented on (3) three different levels in OA: the Intergroup (ours is: New Freedom Intergroup, aka: NFI); the Region (NFI belongs to Region 8) and World Service (WSO). Each PIPO Committee meets separately. However, as often as possible, the PIPO committees share information freely and eagerly with each other regarding ways they’ve successfully informed the public about OA; and ways they’ve reached out to professionals. We also share the failures, as evidence of what to avoid. However, many times we find ourselves inspired by another member’s insight for ways in which we can improve our approach to help make a possible future success.

The various levels of PIPO committees are **not** in competition with each other. It’s such a beautiful thing we do for each other in OA!! And…in this way, we avoid recreating the wheel (so to speak); we learn new and exciting ideas from each other; and get to build on each idea, together, with the primary purpose of carrying the message to as many fellow sufferers as we can.

The following are some examples of how our NFI PIPO Committee has spent member donations to help carry the message there is hope and recovery in OA: In the fall of 2023 we purchased a 3-panel table presentation board (54” x 30”) to display items such as: OA pamphlets and brochures, WSO promotional posters, wallet size slogan cards, OA serenity coins, the 15 Questions flier in large format, etc. We also purchased a 10’ x 10’ Canopy Tent to protect our OA table from inclement weather while participating in outdoor health fairs. In addition, we purchased a substantial supply of pamphlets and brochures to hand out to the public during the health fairs and lucite brochure holders for efficient pamphlet display, as well as Professional Folders that contain various brochures specifically designed to pass on information to professionals, so they may acquaint their clients with OA.

Here are some of our recent accomplishments:

* In the Fall of 2023 we participated in the 3rd Annual Recovery Fair (held at Fort Mose State Park, St Augustine) by hosting a table filled with an elaborate display of OA literature and pamphlets. Many who attended shared how they identified with the information presented on our table and the personal information we shared about our own experience, strength and hope. We carry the message; we hope for the best outcome; and God takes care of the rest….
* During the Fall Region 8 Business Assembly and Convention, we hosted a similar table display to our members in an effort for them to take pamphlets and brochures home to carry the OA message of hope and recovery to folks they know. We also received much praise as to how lovely the PIPO table looked and how professional the Tri-fold Presentation Board was. Also, on Friday night of the event, I announced to all attendees that our PIPO Committee was distributing the Professional Folders to members willing to take home to a professional(s) of their choosing. The outcome was: 33 members took home a total of 56 folders. (The committee is in the process of following up as to the feedback the members received from their professional.)
* Another large order was placed for WSO Promotional Posters, “STOP Hurting Yourself with Food”. (See photo) The intent is to roll out distribution to members willing to put up a poster in places such as: local libraries, community rooms, Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), Hospital bulletin boards, Eating Disorder Units, local Chamber of Commerce, Social Clubs, local Gym, those who may have access to school guidance counselors or cafeterias, Senior Citizen groups, etc. Anyone willing to put up an OA promotional poster(s) in their local community, please contact me at: [npklei@gmail.com](mailto:npklei@gmail.com) or (516) 286-1888, and I will be happy to mail out to you.
* Next goal is to update NFI’s website (https://oanfig.org) to include a section for PIPO. We are also considering doing ‘Public Service Announcements’ (PSA).

I leave you with this thought: Each time we share about the hope and recovery found OA with a fellow sufferer ‘outside’the fellowship - we are doing “Public Information service work’ – aka: 12 Stepping.

To find out more about the work we do in this committee, or if you may have an interest in joining the PIPO committee, please reach out to me at: **516.286.1888.** Kindly leave a message if I do not pick up and I will definitely return your call. Or feel free to email me at: **npklei@gmail.com**.

In loving service, Nancy K., NFI PIPO Chair