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

As planned, our PIPO Committee successfully participated in a ‘**Recovery Fair’** held on Sept 24th, 2022, 10:30am-1:30pm. The fair was sponsored by Epic Behavioral Health and was held on the grounds of St Johns Health Department, in St. Augustine. This was their **2nd Annual** **Recovery Fair** with 12 step recovery groups and behavioral health institutions/organizations**.** However, it was the very first time Overeaters Anonymous was represented. Therefore, unlike our past OA participation which has been at Health Fairs and Craft Fairs that attracts the general public, this event was designed for ‘Recovery’. Therefore, the assumption being that attendees would come seeking outside avenues of help…. Naturally we were very eager to be available at this platform, to carry the message of OA’s 12 step program of hope and recovery.

If I may take a moment to say, OA members who hold chair positions like myself, on any of the NFI Committees, do not profess to be a *professional* for the committee they serve. We are simply OA members willing to do service at NFI Intergroup. I am taking the liberty to add a pitch about doing service above the meeting level. On a personal level, I receive so much satisfaction plus added encouragement to keep my program strong, all the while I’m helping others. For example, becoming involved in a new territory for our PIPO Committee!! It actually began many months ago, when I first heard about the upcoming Recovery Fair from a member in another 12 Step program. I instantly got excited and thought to myself, OMGosh, OA needs to be there!!! What an opportunity for OA and our committee to provide service in a new forum; to reach folk in the community coming specifically for some form of healing and recovery; possibly struggling a lifetime with food addiction and weight issues...

Service in OA is *not* rocket science. It basically takes the desire to want to contribute, to give back a bit of what the program has given. It definitely takes up time—sometimes a whole bunch of time, but the payoff is helping me to stay abstinent!! To get the ball rolling for this event, I made phone calls, sent emails, completed an application, waited for approval, filled out registration and then most importantly, myself and (2) other members from our PIPO committee showed up as the best representation we could be of a person living in recovery from our progressive and fatal disease. Needless to say, we were over the moon delighted to be approved and to be present in body, mind and spirit.

The table was arranged much like we do for the Health Fairs. Most importantly, we were available to hand out brochures and meeting lists, answer questions and share our experience, strength and hope. My other objective was to visit booths present that centered around addiction; nutrition; behavioral health; health improvement; intervention and referral. I was able to introduce myself to them as a member of OA’s 12 Step Program of Recovery; explain we are a self-help group of **non-professional** members, we are not in competition with professionals in any way; and perhaps members of our program may be able to offer additional assistance to anyone they come into contact with in their treatment center who may be suffering physically, emotionally and/or spiritually with any form of eating disorder. To my delight, I had some very positive responses. ☺

I was also able to hand out NFI’s business cards; I offered OA pamphlets, brochures and meeting lists for them to review and to put in their waiting room; or to have on hand for anyone interested. I also indicated they could contact me if they wanted additional supply of material, at no charge to them. I was able to get *their* business cards along with a point of contact, which was a prime objective for my future follow-up. My goal is to continue a relationship, deliver pamphlets and meeting lists for their waiting room/or their clients; and my hope is that perhaps this could lead to holding an on-site OA meeting in their building.

We would appreciate hearing any new idea(s), suggestions and/or comments from anyone.

For more information about the PIPO committee, and/or to volunteer time to help on the committee, please contact: Nancy K at: [npklei@gmail.com](mailto:npklei@gmail.com).

In loving service,

Nancy K

NFI PIPO Chair