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

 If you’ve been following the last couple of Newsletters, you may recall that NFI’s Professional Outreach Committee announced our current goal is to reach out to Bariatric Physicians and their post-surgical patients in an effort to carry the message of hope and recovery through the OA program to those outside of OA who are still suffering.

 We thought what greater way to introduce the OA program to post-surgical bariatric patients then to include letters of testimony from a few OA members. Specifically, members who have had personal experience with bariatric surgery and are currently working the OA 12 step program to deal with the emotional and spiritual reasons they turned to the food. Note: OA and the PIPO committee are not in competition with medical professionals.

 We are delighted to announce that we received (3) incredible and inspiring letters of testimony from OA members who have achieved recovery from working and living the OA 12 step program in ways their personal bariatric surgery was not addressing.

 Therefore, we are now ready to move ahead and forward the (3) letters of testimony, along with a copy of WSO Professional Folder, to one of our member’s Bariatric physician whose letter of testimony will be included. This will give us (and the physician) a personal edge and we believe a great way to start this particular type of Professional Outreach. It is also within our goal to proceed with other mailings like this to additional Bariatric Physicians. BTW-The Professional Folder contains (3) pamphlets geared to the Professional with information about OA and the 12 Step program.

 Our next step will be to wait a reasonable amount of time to allow the Physician to review the testimonials and the other material. Then at that time, we plan to reach out to the Physician for feedback; answer any questions; and to get a sense of willingness on the Physician’s part to allow a couple of our Committee members to meet with his/her post op bariatric patients and talk to them about how OA has helped and continues one day at a time.

 Lastly, if I may make another pitch…. Our Professional Outreach Committee currently consists of (3) members. It would be of great benefit to have additional members to help on our committee. We have some other ideas and goals we’re looking forward to. Although this service is a labor of love, none of us do service work full time….

 We would also 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.

In loving service,

Nancy K

NFI PIPO Chair