**2021 OA PI Member Survey Summary**

*2/18/2021*

**Survey Highlights**

The survey received 45 responses which is about 56% of our 81 members reported in the January 2021 Intergroup meeting by representatives.  The top respondents came from 48% of members who have been with OA for over 10 years, which shows many years in program throughout our Intergroup.  The two top areas of abstinence are less than 90 days and 1 to 5 years.  This may be why our Intergroup members have seen a lot of relapse during their program years.  Over 74% of our survey respondents have relapsed, but 88% of the respondents are not in relapse at this time. It was also interesting to see that over 88% of our members have held some type of service position. This shows a lot of diversity in our members and what they bring to our meetings.

There are four areas of concern that will be detailed in the paragraphs below which are: newcomers, sponsoring, engagement, and meeting strength and weaknesses.

**Newcomers**

Newcomers have been in attendance in most of our meetings.  Over 91% of meetings have had newcomers attend, but only about 25% of the newcomers stay in our meetings.  The two top reasons newcomers do not stay are that they are not ready or there is no explanation of the program at the meeting.  This identifies that we need to do more to retain newcomers.  The Intergroup could form a committee for newcomer retention to address this issue.

**Sponsoring**

There is a large percentage of respondents that do have sponsors.  The survey did not ask for a count of sponsors so we could find out how many sponsors we have in our meetings.  We do not know if the sponsors that members have are in or outside our area.  14% of the respondents who do not have a sponsor are mostly in between sponsors or cannot find a sponsor.  One of the top four weaknesses in a meeting is contributed to a lack of available sponsors. Also, one of the top three workshop ideas and suggested newsletter articles is on sponsorship.  The Intergroup has identified a need for a sponsorship workshop/training and it has been on the agenda for a couple of months.

The top three strengths of our group meetings identified by responders are committed members, **strong recovery**, and the focus on steps and traditions. While the top four weaknesses stated are controllers, low attendance, **lack of recovery**, and lack of sponsors.

**Engagement (Marketing) Topics**

There needs to be more interaction and communication between IG and groups and more of an effort made to reach out to the compulsive eater who is still suffering. How do we do this?

**Meeting Strengths and Weaknesses**

The survey results indicated that the main reasons people come to OA is because they want to lose weight or have out of control eating behaviors. One reason they keep coming back is due to the fellowship, love, support, and acceptance they receive from the fellowship. Another reason is because nothing else works!