

# Overview of OIAA

IGR Forum - January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# OIAA - A Little History

- ▶ Online computing began in the '80s and accelerated in the mid '90s as the Internet became commercialized
- ▶ The first online AA meetings date back to that time
- ▶ OIAA was formed as an Intergroup in 1995 following a successful event at the International Convention in San Diego
- ▶ From that time until March of 2020 when the Pandemic first hit, OIAA listed approximately 400 online meetings (bulletin board, chat, email, audio and video)
- ▶ Today, our organization has 518 member groups and 6,424 meetings worldwide in 14 different languages
- ▶ When an organization grows so rapidly, there are a number of issues which arise from that growth

# OIAA - An Organization in Transition

- ▶ One major challenge was that Assemblies could only be held through email as specified in our Bylaws. This was in violation of the Non-profit laws in the state of NJ
- ▶ This required a re-writing of our Bylaws which an ad hoc Bylaws committee accomplished in 4 months last year. Those new Bylaws were approved by the group conscience of the IGRs of OIAA in an online Assembly
- ▶ The new Bylaws identified a Board of Trustees to help guide the organization going forward. In December, in the first online Election Assembly, the IGRs once again voted in a new slate of trustees.
- ▶ The Board has been meeting online and posting the minutes from their meetings on our website
- ▶ The Website has undergone a transformation over the past few years and new features like a Board page, an Event page and a page for IGRs.
- ▶ The Technology committee is in the process of implementing a new technology platform which will provide an upgrade to the outdated technology of the organization which dates back to the late 90's

# The Structure of OIAA

- ▶ The structure of OIAA is similar to the upside-down triangle of General Service
  - ❖ The member groups of OIAA are at the top. It is the group conscience of our groups that guides the organization
  - ❖ Each member groups identifies an Intergroup Rep (IGR) which connects your group to the organization
  - ❖ The IGRS:
    - ✓ Elect the Officers who form the Board of Directors
    - ✓ Attend Quarterly Assemblies to vote on Business items (e.g. the annual Budget)
  - ❖ The Chair of the Committees are appointed by the Board

# IGRs - The Lifeblood of OIAA

- ▶ As an Intergroup Rep (IGR), you play the vital role of the two-way communication between OIAA and your group
- ▶ IGRs:
  - ❖ Vote on business items at the quarterly Assemblies. Some items like the annual proposed budget will be available to review with your group
  - ❖ Let the group know about any special events taking place like our recent Safety workshop
  - ❖ Bring service opportunities back to the group for members who wish to volunteer for service
  - ❖ Serve on committees themselves where they can help with 12 step work or at as secretaries or committee chairs
  - ❖ Make a report to your group after an Assembly or to keep the group informed about upcoming events (e.g. voting on the revised Guidelines when the ad hoc committee completes their work)

# The OIAA Service Committees

Much of the work performed by the organization is done through our committee system

- ▶ 12th Step Committee (Steppers)
- ▶ Finance Committee
- ▶ Technology Committee
- ▶ Public Information Committee (PIC)
- ▶ Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- ▶ Policy & Admissions Committee (PAC)
- ▶ Unity Committee
- ▶ Translators (not yet a committee)

Our committees provide service opportunities for your group which the IGRs can bring back in their reports. Check out the Service Opportunities page on our website