Gulf Coast Florida Intergroup of Overeaters Anonymous

Gulf Coast Florida Intergroup
Agenda
June 23, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Open with Serenity Prayer

- **Read Step 6**

  Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

- **Read Tradition 6**

  An OA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the OA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

- **Read Concept 6**

  The World Service Business Conference has entrusted the Board of Trustees with the primary responsibility for the administration of Overeaters Anonymous.

Introductions

- First Name, ID yourself as a meeting Rep (which meeting) or visitor.
- Rename yourself if you are a meeting representative by placing an "(A)" before your name. Secretary to capture names of group representatives.

  people in attendance; group representatives

- Review of the meeting protocol (timer for meeting) and main motion process (3 pros and 3 cons per motion; 1 minute per person)

  May Minutes –
  June Treasurer's Report –

- Ask for a volunteer to be timer

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Chairperson Comments

Vice Chair Comments

- N/A

Treasurer Comments

- We have Zelle set up for donations. Find our intergroup on Zelle using our tag: “gulf-coast-florida-intergroup”
- This helps us avoid Paypal fees for every transaction.

Secretary Comments

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Committee and Representative Reports

- Retreat Committee
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- 12th Step Within Committee - Cindy B.
    -
- PIPO (Public Information and Professional Outreach) Committee – OPEN POSITION IN PASCO & PINELLAS

Old Business:

- Add PO Box cost to budget and move DBA budgeted money and unused PIPO money to pay for PO box.
- Voting on allowing 2 OA meeting reps per group

New Business:

Take back to your group:

Next Monthly GCFI Meeting

- Tuesday, July 28, at 7:00pm, Meeting ID 840 2699 8998, Passcode: service

Motion to Adjourn:

Close with Serenity Prayer

Key Takeaways

- May meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- June Treasurer's Report was approved; Zelle has been set up as a new payment method to reduce PayPal fees.
- A motion to allow two voting reps per OA group at Intergroup passed (6 in favor, 2 against).
- A motion to reallocate DBA and PIPO budget funds to cover the cost of a UPS PO Box ($306 including setup fee) was approved unanimously.
- The annual retreat is scheduled for October 9–11 at Dayspring; approximately 9–10 people have already registered.
- Open board positions remain: Treasurer and Vice Chair; potential candidates have expressed interest.
- A bylaws clarification on how committee chairpersons are selected will be added to next month's agenda.
- Next Intergroup meeting: Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM.

Discussed Topics

1. Opening Formalities and Introductions

The meeting was opened by Sam (Intergroup Chair) with the Serenity Prayer. Step 6, Tradition 6, and Concept 6 were read by Carol, Ann, and Sheilah respectively. Attendees introduced themselves and identified their roles.

- **Details**
    - Sam: Welcomed attendees and asked voting reps to place an "A" before their names in Zoom.
    - Carol: Read Step 6 — "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."
    - Ann: Read Tradition 6 — OA groups should never endorse, finance, or lend the OA name to outside enterprises.
    - Sheilah: Read Concept 6 — The World Service Business Conference entrusts the Board of Trustees with primary administrative responsibility.
    - Michelle W: Volunteered to serve as timekeeper for the meeting.
- **Conclusion**
    - Meeting was formally opened with all required readings completed.
    - Voting representatives were identified; Ann confirmed she was the alternate rep and deferred voting rights to Sheilah for this meeting.

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2. Approval of May Meeting Minutes

Briana had distributed the May minutes in advance. The group moved to approve without reading them aloud.

- **Details**
    - Michele M: Made the motion to approve the May minutes.
    - Sam: Called for a vote; confirmed unanimous approval among eligible voters.
    - Ann: Confirmed she was not voting this session.
- **Conclusion**
    - May minutes were approved unanimously.
    - Minutes to be sent to MJ (webmaster) for posting on the GCFI website.

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3. June Treasurer's Report

Sam and Briana presented the Treasurer's Report, highlighting the introduction of Zelle, PayPal fee concerns, retreat fund earmarking, and donation transparency.

- **Details**
  - Sam: Announced Zelle is now active; the webmaster (MJ) and the 12-Step Within Chair have already been reimbursed via Zelle. Noted that PayPal fees are a significant cost, especially for retreat payments.
  - Briana: Provided the Zelle tag — "gulf-coast-florida-intergroup" — for finding the account. Noted the account may display as "Pinellas Traditions."
  - Michele M.: Asked whether groups could use Zelle for donations to Intergroup; Sam confirmed yes.
  - Michelle W.: Asked how individual members typically donate to Intergroup; Sam explained that many set up recurring PayPal donations and can reference their group number.
  - Sam: Clarified that approximately $3,200 of current funds is earmarked for the retreat, with roughly $5,000 still owed on the retreat contract.
  - Sheilah: Asked whether groups should donate separately to Region 8 and World Service; Sam explained that the annual budget includes earmarked amounts for both, but bills are paid first.
  - Ann: Confirmed her group (Friday New Beginnings) donated to World Services, SOAR 8, and Gulf Coast Intergroup. Noted they will explore Zelle for future donations. Expressed interest in potentially becoming Gulf Coast Treasurer with guidance.
  - Gloria: Suggested that retreat funds should be separated into a prudent reserve line item on future reports for clarity.
  - Sam: Agreed to implement clearer categorization in future reports; confirmed May's report would not be retroactively amended as it had already been passed.
  - Elizabeth: Made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
  - Michelle W: Seconded the motion.
- **Conclusion**
  - Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously by eligible voters.
  - Future reports will include clearer earmarking of retreat funds and other categories.
  - Groups are encouraged to transition to Zelle to reduce PayPal processing fees.

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4. Secretary's Comments

Briana had no formal comments but addressed the AI transcription feature on Zoom.

- **Details**
  - Briana: Explained that the AI transcription setting has been adjusted so it only activates during Intergroup meetings. Advised attendees not to be alarmed by the AI symbol appearing in other meetings, as it does not record unless explicitly activated.
  - Sam: Noted that an accidental activation occurred during a Saturday morning meeting, which was resolved before the meeting began.
- **Conclusion**
  - AI transcription is now restricted to Intergroup meetings only.
  - Members were advised to contact Briana if any issues arise with the Zoom AI feature.

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5. Committee Reports

Retreat Committee (reported by Sam and Carol)

- **Details**

- Sam: Approximately 9–10 people have registered; single rooms are filling quickly. Retreat is at Dayspring (near Ellington Mall, Florida), October 9–11. Payments via Zelle should include a specific memo noting the purpose.
- Carol: Noted the retreat committee is still open to new members.

- **Conclusion**
  - Members encouraged to register and to join the retreat committee.

12-Step Within Committee (reported by Carol)

- **Details**
  - Carol: The "Burning Down the House" workshop was held the prior weekend with approximately 25 attendees, including participants from New Port Richey. No further workshops are currently planned.
- **Conclusion**
  - Committee is open to new members; no upcoming workshops scheduled at this time.

Bylaws Committee (reported by Carol)

- **Details**
  - Carol: Bylaws are due for review in August. Carol and Michele M. have formed a self-appointed committee and welcome additional members.
  - Carol: Noted that with 8 eligible voters present, a motion requires 5 affirmative votes to pass per current bylaws.
- **Conclusion**
  - Bylaws review is scheduled for August; interested members may join the committee.

PIPO (Public Information/Professional Outreach)

- **Details**
  - Sam: No current PIPO chair. Described past activities such as distributing OA information at public locations. Encouraged anyone interested to volunteer, emphasizing that any level of contribution is welcome.
  - Sheilah: Expressed potential interest in the PIPO chair role; agreed to discuss further after the meeting.
- **Conclusion**
  - PIPO chair position remains vacant; interested members encouraged to come forward.

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6. Old Business: PO Box Budget Allocation

The group discussed approving a budget line item for a UPS PO Box, funded by reallocating unused DBA funds and PIPO budget funds.

- **Details**
  - Briana: Confirmed the UPS PO Box cost is $276/year plus a one-time $30 setup fee, totaling $306 (tax not yet confirmed; suggested budgeting $330 to cover potential tax).
  - Sam: Explained the rationale — to eliminate the use of personal home addresses for business and banking purposes. Proposed moving $107 from the now-unused DBA budget line and the remainder from the PIPO budget to create a new PO Box line item.
  - Zoe: Asked about mail forwarding and address continuity for future officers; Sam confirmed the transition to virtual/electronic payments reduces reliance on physical mail.
  - Elizabeth: Made the motion to approve the reallocation.
  - Carol: Seconded the motion.
  - Sheilah: Asked how much would be taken from PIPO; Sam confirmed approximately $199 (the balance after the $107 DBA contribution).
- **Conclusion**
  - Motion passed unanimously.

- Briana will purchase the UPS PO Box using the Wells Fargo debit card; final cost including tax will be reported.
- A new PO Box line item will be added to the budget going forward.

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7. New Business: Motion to Allow Two Voting Reps Per OA Group

Sam introduced a motion to formally allow each OA group to send two voting representatives to Intergroup, noting this had been informally practiced but was never documented in the bylaws.

- **Details**
  - Zoe: Made the motion to allow two voting reps per group.
  - Michele M: Seconded the motion.
  - Sheilah (Con): Raised concern that two reps from the same group could cancel each other's votes out.
  - Carol (Pro): Argued that encouraging participation is the priority; groups are not required to send two reps, and voting in alignment with OA's best interest is the guiding principle.
  - Elizabeth (Con): Expressed concern that smaller groups cannot afford two representatives, potentially creating a voting imbalance. Also raised concern about two reps from the same group contradicting their group's conscience.
  - Briana (Pro): Argued that more participation and engagement strengthens Intergroup; people are more likely to attend if they have a vote.
- **Vote Result**
  - In favor: Michele M, Zoe, Michelle W., Carol, Sheilah, Briana — 6 votes
  - Against: Elizabeth, Gloria — 2 votes
  - Abstentions: None
- **Conclusion**
  - Motion passed (6–2). Each OA group may now send two voting representatives to Intergroup.
  - All reps are asked to bring this update back to their groups and encourage greater participation.

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8. New Business: Bylaws Clarification on Committee Chair Selection

Carol raised an inconsistency in the current bylaws regarding who has the authority to appoint committee chairpersons.

- **Details**
  - Carol: Noted that one bylaws section states the committee selects its own chair, while another states the Intergroup chair makes the selection. Referenced her prior Intergroup in Philadelphia, where the committee chose the chair but the chair served at the pleasure of the Intergroup chair.
  - JC: Described Region 8's two-step process — the committee votes on a preferred candidate, and then the board formally appoints them. In emergency situations (e.g., a vacancy), the board can appoint directly.
  - Sam: Summarized understanding — board positions (Treasurer, Vice Chair) are voted in by the full group; committee chairs (e.g., PIPO) may be appointed by the board in the absence of an active committee.
  - Carol: Confirmed that any bylaws change requires one month's advance notice before a vote can be taken.
- **Conclusion**
  - No vote taken; topic deferred to next month's agenda for formal discussion and potential bylaws amendment.
  - Members encouraged to consider their preferred approach before the July meeting.

9. Open Board Positions and Upcoming Opportunities

Sam highlighted current vacancies and expressed optimism about filling them.

- **Details**
  - Sam: Confirmed open positions include Treasurer and Vice Chair. Noted a potential Vice Chair candidate is close to meeting the abstinence time requirement.
  - Ann: Expressed interest in the Treasurer role, acknowledging she would need training and support.
  - Sam: Encouraged Ann, emphasizing that board members work collaboratively and no one operates alone.
  - Sheilah: Expressed potential interest in PIPO chair role.
- **Conclusion**
  - Sam, Sheilah, and Ann agreed to speak after the meeting regarding open positions.
  - Collaborative onboarding support will be provided to any new board members.

10. Closing Announcements

- **Details**
  - Sam: Announced the next Intergroup meeting is Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM.
  - Michele M: Reminded all reps to share the Zelle donation information with their groups.
  - Sam: Confirmed he will contact MJ to update the website with Zelle payment information alongside PayPal.
- **Conclusion**
  - Meeting closed with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Challenges

- Sam and Briana are currently performing the work of four board positions (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair), creating a significant workload burden.
- The retreat contract includes approximately $5,000 still owed, which was not anticipated in the annual budget — this requires careful financial management through October.
- PayPal fees are consuming a notable portion of donations, particularly for retreat payments; transitioning to Zelle is underway but not yet complete.
- The bylaws contain conflicting language regarding committee chair appointment authority, requiring clarification and a formal amendment process.
- PIPO has no active chair or committee, leaving public outreach efforts inactive.
- Treasurer's Report formatting needs improvement to clearly separate earmarked funds (e.g., retreat reserves) from general operating funds.

Action Items

- **Briana**
  - Purchase the UPS PO Box using the Wells Fargo debit card and report the final cost including tax at the next meeting.
  - Adjust the budget to reflect the new PO Box line item, funded by reallocating DBA and PIPO budget funds.
  - Send approved May minutes to MJ (webmaster) for posting on the GCFI website.
  - Continue managing Zoom AI transcription settings to ensure activation is limited to Intergroup meetings only.
- **Sam**

- Contact MJ (webmaster) to add Zelle payment information to the GCFI website alongside PayPal, with clear labeling for donation types (group donation, personal donation, retreat payment).
- Prepare a more detailed Treasurer's Report for July, with clearly separated categories including earmarked retreat funds.
- Follow up with Ann regarding her interest in the Treasurer position and provide onboarding support.
- Follow up with Sheilah regarding her interest in the PIPO chair role.
- Add the bylaws clarification on committee chair selection to the July meeting agenda for formal discussion and potential vote.
- Confirm the Vice Chair candidate's abstinence timeline for potential appointment at the July meeting.

- **All Group Representatives**
  - Bring back to their groups: the approval of two voting reps per group at Intergroup.
  - Share Zelle donation information with their groups and encourage electronic contributions.
  - Encourage group members to consider volunteering for open Intergroup positions (Treasurer, Vice Chair, PIPO Chair).
  - Consider the bylaws question on committee chair selection and come prepared to discuss at the July meeting.
- **Carol and Michele M.**
  - Continue bylaws review in preparation for the August review cycle; welcome additional committee members.
- **Next Intergroup Meeting**
  - Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM.