SWFL OA Intergroup #09231 Meeting Minutes, Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026

- Carol called the meeting to order with the Serenity Prayer at 10:35 am.
- Roz S and Bonita asked to address Old and New Business in their reports; the Sept. Meeting Agenda was thus amended and accepted; and Aug. Meeting Minutes approved.
- Present: Alice, Bonita, Carol, Elva, Gil, Holly, Peggy, Roz M, Roz S, Sharon, Tom; Absent: Bob, Janice, Jodi, Nancy.
- Elva read the 9th Concept of OA Service (ABILITY). Two ideas stood out:
    - **"Willingness [to serve] is the first step"**
    - While there are "important attributes" in a skilled leader, **members may learn through doing service** and thus develop leadership and life skills over time.

Officer/Committee Reports:

- Chair and Vice-Chair: **These offices are VACANT.** Carol and Jodi are unavailable to continue serving as Interim Co-Chairs. We pray that one or more people will put their hats in the ring in November; and Alice has kindly offered to chair the November IG meeting, where we will hold elections for these offices.
    - ***Are you ready to grow through a new service contribution?***
- Secretary: Holly has nothing new to report.
- Treasurer: Alice's monthly report and her recommendations for additional donations to Region 8 and WSO for the quarter were both accepted with unanimous approval and gratitude for her service. IG ended July with $6,516.04, took in $573.00 in 7th tradition donations, and spent $89.00 on rental/storage and reimbursement for Region 8 Fall Assembly registration, resulting in a balance of $7,004.04 at the end of August. With $3,700 allocated to PI/PO (500), PR (200), and Region 8 (3000), that leaves enough room to donate an additional $1,000 to World Service and $500 to SOAR8, with $1,800.04 for other expenses. Tom moved to accept the recommended amounts and was seconded, with everyone's approval, especially given we can revisit our prudent reserve and vote on further donations in the future, if we wish.
    - ***See attached Treasurer's Report and Recommendations.***
- World Service Rep: **This office is VACANT.**
    - ***Do you need a new service commitment?***
- 12 Step Within Coordinator: **This office is VACANT.**
    - ***Do you know someone who wants or needs to serve?***
- Region 8 Rep: Roz S reported that IGOR met the prior Tuesday after an under-attended workshop on improving intergroup service through providing better support.
    - They have discussed is offering workshops every other month.
    - They are seeking people who can do live translation in Portuguese and/or Spanish for assemblies and such, because (as they seek to remind us) OA and SOAR8 are **international** organizations.
    - They consider the HANDBOOK essential to all Trustees, whether worldwide or regional, and for each group.
    - As for dissolving our intergroup and joining another IG, each group must vote to dissolve, then apply to join as a new group, create new by-laws, and get new ID# from World Service. The nearest geographically is Manatee & Sarasota (or Mana-

sota), and we do not know whether they are potentially interested in merging with us, or if they meet in person versus Zoom.
    - A second option we did not discuss would be dissolving our intergroup and having our Zoom meetings join a virtual intergroup such as OA Sunlight, Better Together, or Family Afterwards. But this would segregate our groups and leave our face-to-face meetings without an intergroup/home.
    - Obviously, any discussion of merging with another intergroup due to our service vacancies involves intensive work at both the Intergroup and World Service levels. Therefore, Alice asks, **can we do a more robust job of getting people to join intergroup and try leadership roles?** The one-on-one method of asking people seems more effective than a general appeal, although not everyone is comfortable using "flattery" or a little "arm-twisting" to recruit new members. Our financial contributions are sufficient; can we increase service commitments from amongst our 15 meetings to match?
    - **Some good news:** Two people from meetings Roz M is involved with want to join out intergroup, one starting in October, and the other in November. And Gil believes he might be able to recruit someone from the Sanibel meetings.
    - **Another bit of good news:** Since we have 15 meetings, we qualify for a second regional representative. **Let's all consider whom we can invite to join our intergroup and help sustain OA in SWFL!**
- PI/PO Coordinator: Bonita is quite fatigued and fears that she is not doing enough for PI/PO due to her medical and other issues. IG members heartily disagree, since PI/PO should be a committee not a single-person service position. Bonita would like to do more but simply cannot; however, she is willing to continue if no one else will step up.
    - ***Please pray about becoming PI/PO Coordinator or joining the group.***
    - ***PI/PO is committed to present on Saturday, September 12 at an outdoor venue in Cape Coral. Bonita and Roz M will set up between 9:30-10:30 am. The event runs from 11 am to 2:30 pm. Please contact Bonita ASAP to assist at some or all of this event on Saturday, Sept. 12 in the Cape.***
    - ***PI/PO is on a wait list for an Area Agency on Aging (indoor) event in Fort Myers on Friday, Sept. 25. With set up at noon, the event runs 1-3 pm.*** Bonita, Alice, and Holly are prepared to attend. A vendor fee of $25, if we are able to participate, will be reimbursed to Bonita.
- Web Manager: Carol says our web page is in good shape, and she is posting lots of new flyers from Holly's connections who are promoting new meetings, workshops, etc.
    - ***Sharon promotes our web address ~ https://southwestfloa.org ~ at the meeting she reps, and Elva posts Alice's info for 7th Tradition ~ Let's plug our website, intergroup, service & giving options at every meeting!***
- Zoom Administrator: Nancy absent. No report.

Intergroup Rep/Meeting Reports:

Sunday 6:30 pm: Tom notes unsteady attendance recently but group seems good overall.
Monday 10:45 am: Janice reports that she had knee surgery, so she had to miss for a few weeks for checkups, etc., but gladly she is back on her feet and getting back to group.
Monday 6:00 pm: Roz M says this group with good support even gets international visitors.

Tuesday 10:00 am: **NO REP:** ***Do you know someone who needs to get more involved?***
Tuesday 5:00 pm: Holly reports a solid core membership who are there to serve and share, plus frequent newbies and visitors, with one or two becoming regulars on occasion.
Wednesday 8:15 am: Bob absent. **No report on this face-to-face meeting in Bonita.**
Wednesday 10:00 am: Elva says the core of this group is small but mighty.
Wednesday 12:30 pm: Roz M notes that this face-to-face meeting is similar to the Friday group at Emmanuel Lutheran in Naples, with 10-15 attending per week, even off-season.
Wednesday 1:30 pm: Bonita had to miss some meetings due to bad weather and computer problems, but this group boasts a steady core of 4-5 members with rotating visitors.
Thursday 10:30 am: Sharon says the core group of 5 sometimes drops to just 2-3 members, tho she notes **"anywhere two or more are gathered …"** and hopes season reinvigorates this meeting too.
Thursday 6:00 pm: Roz M reports this group is well-attended, averaging about 14 per week.
Friday 4:00 pm: Gil says, "We hold our own" at this small core of 6-8 regulars per week but can't get service beyond helping to chair the meeting once in a while when he is not there.
Friday 5:30 pm: Roz M says this face-to-face Leader's Choice group also is holding its own.
Saturday 9 am Newcomers & 9:30 am Regular: Peggy shares that the early meeting has good speakers and sharing, but no newcomers, and the regular meeting is well attended with a steady rotation of returning members and occasional guests. ***Please encourage newcomers to attend at 8 am Central / 9 am Eastern on Saturday and to visit the Sanibel meetings, Tuesday at 5 pm and Friday at 4pm Eastern.***
Saturday 1:30 pm: Jodi absent. **No report on this face-to-face group at AWOL.**

Old Business:

Bylaw Review: Roz S spoke with the new Trustee, who informed her we need only submit our existing bylaws for approval if no changes, which we select for now with our status up in the air and our current bylaws sufficient. If we do need to make changes in the future, our new bylaws will need to be submitted for review, advice, and/or approval.

IG Merger: As noted above in Roz's report and our discussion of same, Carol suggests that a merger might be more work than we can tackle right now, and many members urge us to **keep seeking new members to enliven our group and rotate service commitments!** Position information and requirements are detailed in our Bylaws. While elected/officer positions require abstinence, and there is a 30-day abstinence requirement for voting, **there is NO abstinence requirement for IG rep status, and we do have a few meetings that need IG reps!** To read more, visit https://southwestfloa.org/bylaws.html and click on "**Southwest Florida Intergroup Bylaws**".

Service Positions: As a reminder, we share OA's RESPONSIBILITY PLEDGE, which states, **"Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion: for this I am responsible."** Roz S reports that WSBC is separate from WSO, and WSBC recently elected to alternate between Zoom and in-person sessions to reduce costs. She also notes that we qualify for a second Region 8 rep if someone wants to serve at that level. We very much need new Officers for Chair and Vice Chair. Alice and Holly will remain as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, for another year. Gil jokes that we fill our other, non-elected, positions under the "warm body" theory: **Anybody who is willing to serve is welcome!** Roz M is considering volunteering for Chair or Co-Chair, and Carol will call her to discuss her experience. Roz S says she will gladly hand over control of the many communications

from WSO and Region 8 that she currently receives, which she then CCs to all IG members to share with our weekly groups, so please keep sharing them! For now, Jodi will chair our October 2026 IG meeting, and Alice will chair the meeting in November.

SOAR8 Appeal: Carol reported on her call with the new Region 8 Treasurer, Sherry, who informed her that our IG's 7th tradition donations are about average. She said the purpose of the appeal is to raise funds for Assembly. Also, WSBC encourages all OA treasurers to use Zelle for money management. Most credit unions do not authorize the Zelle platform, so this excludes some OA meetings and groups (such as ours) from immediate electronic donation, but **anyone may give to Region 8 and/or World Service via Zelle if their bank allows it**.

New Business:

Service Offered and Accepted: Melissa, Roz S's daughter, volunteered to continue helping her mom with her duties and helping us all by coordinating discussion and dissemination of OA WSBC 2027 Agenda items. We clamored to accept gratefully and immediately! Melissa sent links we can copy and paste into the chat box in our Zoom meetings or print and share in person at face-to-face meetings each week:

2026 WSBC Wrap Up Report: https://oa.org/documents/2026/wrap-up-report/

2027 World Service Business Conference (virtual), May 4-8, 2027

Deadline Dates: https://oa/org/documents/deadline-dates

Registration, Volunteering, More Resources and Information, Including Proposed New Business Motions, Bylaws, and an Agenda Questionnaire: https://oa.org/world-service-business-conference/

Good and Welfare: Please continue to pray for Melissa and Roz S, for Alice's husband, David, and for all inside and outside the rooms who could use loving support and grace.

- Carol closed the meeting with the "We" version of the Serenity Prayer at 11:35 am.

The next SWFLOA IG Meetings are ("Same Bat Time, Same Bat Channel"):

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 10:35 a.m.

Saturday, November 7, 2026, 10:35 a.m.

We thank you all for all your service!