



Fall Newsletter 2022 Ohio Valley Intergroup



Editor's Corner

The leaves are falling, the temperature is falling, daylight is shrinking, and hopefully, our recovery opportunities are on the rise. With that in mind, we want to start by mentioning the upcoming OVIG Fall Retreat. This is covered below just after the segment about Important Fellowship Items.

Also, we can't skip an important message from the ISO at the bottom of this page. Once more, it is worth a quick review.

Following the retreat information, you can read about the short but eventful journey of the pamphlet *Developing Our Own Healthy Sexuality in SAA* as it moved from an idea to a published recovery piece while enduring several "potholes" in its road to completion.

Lastly, let's return once again to a revised list of the many accomplishments of the OVIG for the last few months in "OVIG Highlights."

Read on!
(The OVIG Newsletter Team)

Once more: An Important Message from the ISO:

The International Service Organization of SAA (ISO) continues to see some financial improvements over the last month or so thanks to increases in Lifeline Partners and other donations. Perhaps the old saying, "We're not out of the woods yet" would be an appropriate phrase to use here.

A few high points:

- Group and individual donations are still down compared to this time last year.
- The 2022 Convention lost \$39,000.00 (updated figure) due to low attendance and lower donations.
- Sales of literature and chips has been about \$11,300 below budget (also an updated figure).

What can we do to help? Please consider sending a one-time donation or becoming a **Lifeline Partner** if you haven't done so already. For more information and to donate, click on the following links to start:

Lifeline Donations: https://igfn.us/form/_7WkBA General Donations: <http://igfn.us/form/GDovAg>

Important Fellowship Items

Special Needs

Are you looking for information or for specific meetings such as Offender meetings, LGBT, Women's meetings, or on-line meetings? The ISO website is a good place to start. Just use the URL below.

<https://saa-recovery.org/>

When the site appears, click on one of the rectangular buttons at the top or select one of the menu headings in the black runner below the buttons. Also, coming soon, SAA Connect. This will be a quicker, more convenient way to get information.

The 2022 OVIG Fall Retreat

Let's keep things simple. This retreat offers a day of experience, strength, and hope for all of those seeking recovery.

Don't let your length of time in the program, sobriety experience, or lack of a sponsor keep you from coming.

Feeling that you're just not ready to attend a retreat? Feeling Broke? We can help you. Come! Experience workshops over a six-hour period on the 19th of November. Come and be among other recovering sex addicts with thirty days of experience or thirty years of experience or anything in between. We would love to have you join us!

Here are a few specifics:

What: The 2022 Ohio Valley Intergroup Fall Retreat

When: Saturday, November 19th at 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church at 4686 Walnut St. Westerville, Ohio

Cost: \$10.00 if you register ahead of time or \$15.00

If you "pay at the door." This fee covers a "continental" breakfast, all workshops, and lunch.

Schedule of all events:

8:30-9:30 Registration, fellowship, continental breakfast

9:00-9:10 Welcome (Joe C, OVIG Vice Chair)

9:10-10:00 Breaking Down Walls and Building Boundaries (Ted K)

10:10-11:00 Step 12: Sharing the Message Through Sponsorship (Greg T, Elena V, Bill K, James E)

11:10-12:00 Getting to Know Your Inner Addict (Zach R)

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:45 Letting Go and Letting God (Mel F)

2:00-2:50 A Model for Living in the Present (Mark R)

2:50-3:00 Remarks and Closing

Directions from central Columbus:

One: Take I-71 or route 315 North to I-270.

Two: Take I-270 East around to route 161.

Three: Take route 161 East to Sunbury Rd.

Four: Take Sunbury Road North to Smothers Road.

Five: Take Smothers Road East to Schott Road and Go South to where Smothers dead ends into Walnut Street. Turn right and drive to St. Paul which will be on the right side of the road.

Hope to see you there!

The OVIG Newsletter Team



Developing Our Own Healthy Sexuality in SAA – Shorter Road, More Potholes

The old quote repeated in the last two newsletters, "Literature doesn't just pop out of rocks" can also be said to apply to this SAA pamphlet during its development. While the "Hope of Recovery" and "Getting a Sponsor"

pamphlets discussed earlier needed a more robust timeline, this one had its challenges packed into a seemingly inconsequential 3-1/2 years.

So, what about the “potholes” packed into this short timeline?

A timeline follows.

November 2017: The Authors Group discusses a possible document (pamphlet) about aspects of healthy sexuality. This was more-so considered to be a resource for those who had already worked through the Twelve Steps with a sponsor and could find the pamphlet useful as a reference.

The first draft created found many discussions at the December 2017 Authors Group meeting.

December 2017: The A-G met and decided to move the “Healthy Sexuality” project forward with a significant re-draft being written such that the document was less like an outline and more like a short pamphlet. This early draft was only about 410 words and was dubbed Version-1.

March 2018: Version-2 was sent out to members of the Authors Group. Shortly after this occurred, a former member of the A-G sent an email to the group having more heat than an industrial oven. The anger was clear as he described how much he opposed the idea and that the group should cease all work on it.

One group member sent back his thoughts in a concise and calm manner which seemed to help a situation which almost had the A-G questioning whether to move forward with the work. Shortly after this, the emails from the “dissenter” died away.

April 2018: The pamphlet was revamped somewhat and sent out as Version-3. In this one, the author shared a personal experience in how he approached an “unhealthy” situation while incarcerated. While this story would remain a part of several future versions, it would eventually be edited to be more “general” due to various opinions from group members and others.

June 2018: Version-4 of “Healthy Sexuality” is sent to members of the Authors Group along with some helpful information to the “dissenter” who didn’t want the pamphlet to be worked on. The argument for the pamphlet was that, since some information about healthy sexuality was already published in the SAA Green Book, that if anyone really wanted the removal of literature on that subject, that the Green Book would have to be removed from Conference approval and then be changed.

October 2018 to February 2019: Versions 7 through 11 are sent to the Authors Group during this time frame as further refinements are made. By this time, a list of useful indicators of developing healthy sexuality is added to the seventh paragraph. Some information in the ninth and tenth paragraphs is centered on building a healthy relationship with another. Also, the incarceration story had been made more general and less personal as far as the author was concerned.

February 2019: A second dissenter tosses his hat in the ring and speaks against the work in progress. This person urged the group to “not advise people on counseling others about substance abuse” where the “substance” was sex. He focused more on his dislike of information he thought was “telling people how to have a relationship.”

At this time, the Authors Group Chair offered the dissenter a chance to attend the next meeting such that he could be part of the discussion and Group Conscience. It is not known if this person attended any meetings in the months following his communication.

May 2019 through October 2019: Versions 14, 15, 15a, and 16 were sent to the group for review with some minor changes made to accommodate a few of the second dissenter’s complaints.

October 2019: One of the Authors Group members received a phone call from a relative of the original author, saying that he had passed away and to please cease any further correspondence with him. This was quite a shock and the situation had tossed a large, but temporary monkey wrench into the process.

December 2019: The overall focus of the pamphlet shifted somewhat toward principles of mutuality, respect, and curiosity. Also, the idea of changing the pamphlet using spiritual principles to guide the content was used. Some of the spiritual principles mentioned: Love, Honesty, Safety, Privacy, Desire, Creativity, Fantasy, Sharing, Openness, Humility, Boundaries, and Willingness.

February 2020 to June 2020: Versions 17, 18, 20, 21, and “21a” are sent to the group as more refinements continue to be applied. The principles of Honesty, Open-mindedness, and Willingness are presented in more detail in the latter versions. Also, the idea of single recovering sex addicts having a healthier approach was added to the material as well.

July 2020: Per input from Literature Committee, the title “Healthy Sexuality” is changed to “Developing Our Own Healthy Sexuality in SAA.” This reflects many of the changes made to the original document, allowing for a more-so “ongoing personal process.”

October 2020: Version-24 is the last revision of “Developing Our Own Healthy Sexuality in SAA” receiving work within the Authors Group. It is this one that is sent to the Literature Committee for consideration after a unanimous vote of the Authors Group.

April 2021: Literature Committee approves *Developing Our Own Healthy Sexuality in SAA*, and the new pamphlet receives a 2021 copyright. It is then printed and distributed and can now be reviewed but not printed for free at the SAA website.

The efforts poured into *Developing Our Own Healthy Sexuality in SAA* were well worth it. So, if you’re curious about this one, go to the SAA website and give it a read.

Chris J.

OVIG Highlights

The Ohio Valley Intergroup (OVIG) stays a cohesive unit of single SAA groups in both Ohio and West Virginia. As with most intergroups, the OVIG was formed to share resources, supply service talent, and offer activities that single groups may not have the wherewithal to provide.

As such, there are a good number of notable accomplishments the OVIG has under its belt for the last few months. Below is a list of these accomplishments so everyone can know just how busy we have been.

- Note! The OVIG Fall Retreat is Saturday, November 19th. It starts at 8:30 A.M.
- The Venmo account for OVIG continues to be a convenient way to make donations to the intergroup.
- Funds continue to be collected from groups for professional outreach purposes.
- The OVIG continues to work on using Robert's Rules of Order during business meetings.
- When possible, the intergroup aids the Area 14 Assembly in recruiting and registering new Group Service Representatives (GSRs).
- The intergroup continues to keep a supply of literature and display organizers for outreach purposes.
- The Area-14 Delegate for 2022 has submitted a report from the 2022 Conference where all eight business motions passed (but a couple of them just barely!)

It's easy to see from the above bullet list the many ways that OVIG serves the groups, the fellowship, and the still-suffering sex addict.

(The OVIG Newsletter Team)