

*Embrace the Similarities
Love the Differences
In all Our Affairs*



Region 9

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

REGION 9 ASSEMBLY 2009

Riccione, Italy

October 7-9, 2009

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INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2009

In these Minutes of our Region 9 Assembly held in Riccione, Italy, from Wednesday 7nd of October 2009 until Friday 9th of October 2009, you 'll find the facts of the discussions held, reports on the workshops and committee sessions, the changes discussed and voted on regarding our Bylaws and our Policies and Procedures, and some appendices like the list of the attendants at the assembly, and others.

We started each half day, with some readings from our OA literature: the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions, the 12 Concepts and the Preamble.

Every day at the Assembly, before and after every meeting or point on the agenda, we said the Serenity Prayer, each time in another language which was represented at this Assembly.

Every day of the Assembly, we at least once passed on the 7th Tradition basket.

Every day, before the official start of the Assembly and after the official end of the Assembly, an OA meeting was held.

WEDNESDAY 7th of OCTOBER 2009

1. Settling in

- Our Chair, Stella, welcomed everybody to the 27th Region 9 Annual Assembly;
- The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts were read;
- Fourteen countries were represented at the Assembly: United Kingdom, Belgium, Israel, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Poland, Iceland, Egypt, Finland, Norway and France;
- Green dot mentors and green dots were brought together.

2. Informal opening – Orientation Meeting – General Overview of the Processes of the Assembly – Adoption of the Agenda

- A word game helped everybody to introduce themselves and their Service Body (SB) and share about problems and triumphs;
- Adoption of Agenda:
 1. Thursday **6.30pm-7pm Ask it Basket**
 2. Thursday **7pm-8.15pm Dinner**
 3. Thursday **8.15pm-9.30pm Proposed Budget Approval**
 4. Friday 2pm-3pm **delete Approval and Adoption of 2009-2010 Budget**
 5. Friday 2pm-3pm Election of Service Positions add '**Translations Committee Chair and Public Information Committee Chair**' and Election of Assembly add '**2010 Iceland and Denmark and 2011 blank**'
 6. Friday 3pm-**4.30pm** Wrap up Session
 7. Friday **4.30pm-5pm** Committee SessionsThe proposed agenda was then approved as written and adjusted;
- Review of the Ground Rules: proposal to change no 16 'Emergency New Business Motions have to be submitted to the Chair in writing by **7.45pm hours on Thursday, October 8th 2009**'. Discussion will be continued tomorrow morning;
- The Ground Rules, Robert's Rules and Standing Rules were read and explained
- The Consent Agenda was explained.

3. General overview of the processes of the Assembly and Region Committee Work Workshop

The following questions were to be considered as start up for this session:

- What is the purpose of Region 9 (R9) committees?
- Do they differ from the committees at World Service Business Conference (WSBC)?
- What was your first experience at R9 committee?
- Do you enjoy the committee work?
- Why do you feel you/we need it?
- What do you think is expected of a committee member?
- What can I do if I can't fulfil a task for a committee that I said I would carry out?

Then the current Chairs of the committees shared about their experiences regarding these questions. Stella covered the committee of PI and 12th Step Within.

Stella and Freija spoke a little about our experience concerning the Chair and Secretary positions on the Board. Alison covered some of her experience of the first year as Treasurer.

Questions were asked and answered.

THURSDAY 8th of OCTOBER 2009

1. Official opening

1.1. Official opening

The total number of voting representatives present is 18. Countries represented come from Egypt, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Finland, Iceland, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Norway, Israel and France. Therefore we have a quorum: more than 5 countries represented. The credential report was accepted.

1.2. Readings

- Preamble;
- 12 Steps – 12 Traditions – 12 Concepts
- For Today
- Region 9 Statement of Purpose

1.3. Adoption of Ground Rules

First we continued with the discussion about proposed amendments:

- 6: add 'OA' to Visitors
- 14h: the Motion will be referred back to an '**ad hoc reference committee**' (strike 'the Bylaws Committee').
- 16: Emergency New Business Motions have to be submitted to the Chair in writing by **7.45pm hours on Thursday, October 8th 2009**. The **whole Assembly** (strike the Region 9 Board) will vote to determine whether **BM 7-8-9-10** qualify as emergency New Business Motions

The Ground Rules as amended were adopted.

1.4. Adoption of 2008 Assembly Minutes

The 2008 Assembly Minutes were approved with no objections.

The Approval Committee of the 2009 Assembly Minutes will be 2 representatives and the Chair: Susan, Joanna and Stella.

1.5. Reports and Questions arising out of Reports:

- Chair's Report:

OA has always had a plan of how they carry the message and the BOT has worked on this in the past. Currently we have a Strategic Plan which is written and kept updated by the Board of Trustees and Region Chairs and from feedback at the WSBC (NB The August Annual Meeting of the BOT & RCC covers the updating and planning for the Strategic Plan – normally this meeting is represented by all of the BOT – i.e. 6 General Service Trustees and 10 Region Trustees as well as most of the Region Chairs from around the world & the WSO staff. It is a two-way thing: it contains suggestions for the Regions, but Regions can also add by giving input.

The new definition of 'abstinence' voted on at the 2008 WSBC, has been changed in the pamphlets and the suggested meeting format. The new definition is: 'Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviours. Spiritual, emotional and physical recovery is the result of living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve-Step program'. Please check in your translated material if the changes have been made.

The Strategic Plan speaks about committed Service Bodies. One of the main goals is to increase the representation of SBs at their Regional Assembly and also WSBC. Region 9 currently has 56 service bodies – of that number we had 18 represented at Region 9 Assembly 2008 i.e. 32% and 10 at WSBC i.e. 18%. The goal is 40% (i.e. for us 22 members). Our attendance is really very good when we consider the language differences.

- Secretary's Report:

Compiling the emails as in last year works well.

More information needed on the dates of things happening in OA worldwide.

The website of R9 is much needed.

Please consider making a generic email contact of your SB and tell new reps to contact the Region Secretary.

Ask old reps at the Assembly to help the new reps of their country and support by answering all questions.

The secretary asked whether the Assembly preferred emails in the format of 'summary emails' i.e. a number of topics summarised into one email or separate emails for each topic. It was pointed out that when we have a better web site that this will be a better way of updating Region 9 members.

- Treasurer's Report:

We estimate the contributions of R9 for 2009-2010 based on the best estimate we had earlier.

The suggested contribution of groups and intergroups do not need to be added.

What is the definition of a small IG and a large one? It was suggested that a large IG would consist of ten or more groups.

The suggested contribution to the WSO of £5000 for 2010 was questioned. Why not use our money first to pay for the travel costs of our Chair to the various Chair's meetings? To be discussed in Finance Committee later today.

- Trustee's Courtesy Report

No questions

- Translation Committee Report

The language map in the Assembly Binder is not complete. Freija will send the complete one as Appendix A with these Minutes.

- Electronic Communications Committee Report

FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol. Whilst this does not mean a lot to people who are not familiar with website code/language – it does confirm that it is NOT a password that is required which is how it appeared to be when first asked for by the ECC.

We are to build a new website for our R9.

- Bylaws Committee Report

No questions

- Public Information Report

No report

- 12th Step Within Report

No report

2. Translations Workshop

Esti ran this Workshop on translations.

Part 1: News from Esti regarding translations

- First Esti talked about the importance of having translated literature and the increase of OA people in Israel because of translations. Esti explained that this had all began by one of their early National Service Board members having a vision of all OA literature being translated into Hebrew and that ultimately the vision had been worked on so that now there is very little not translated. Experiences of other countries were shared;

- Esti shared her vision for Region 9 – that *ALL OA Literature would be translated into all languages where OA exists in Region 9*. With this vision in mind Esti asked us to create a goal – that we encourage every Service Body in our Region to translate 1 piece of literature per year (translate-circulate-publish). Esti encourages us to get started and asks input from every SB with what piece of literature they want to translate in the coming year and what the estimated costs will be.

- There are two ways of getting funds for translations.

Funds of R9 needs to be considered as a loan. One SB can ask for a second loan in the following year for example and depending on the other requests R9 can decide to give more financial support. Your Service Body can apply for financial assistance of Region 9 to translate literature. By the end of December each Service Body will receive an application form which has to be filled in and returned to our Region 9 Treasurer by the 31st of March. By the 30th of May you should receive an answer.

Funds of WSO is not a loan. Just keep in mind to bring money back to WSO when possible: for example by selling literature (idea: put this money in a different account to use it only for literature). Criteria the WSO follows: when one SB asks for financial support for translating, when they apply again for financial help the following year the requests of other countries will be helped first. You can get funds for the whole process of translating and approving. The funds of WSO can also be used for translating the website (not for maintaining the website) or other translation work needed for OA in your country. Contact Esti with more questions;

- How to get money in for translations without funds of R9 or WSO: you can already presell the book you want to translate so you can use this money in the process;
- Glossary list (lists with special OA related terms): let this glossary list be translated by OA people in your country and use this one for all the translations made;
- Iceland translated their 12 and 12 by a professional translator. The question arises whether literature can be translated from one language (no English) into another. It might be easier. But the Icelandic experience is that you will lose part of the content. Iceland asks what about taxes and selling OA literature? It must be clear these books are only sold in the OA community and not outside. The tax problem is different for every country. For example: the National Service Board of OA in Great Britain is a registered charity to help deal with tax implications. Just keep in mind to bring money back to WSO when possible: for example by selling literature (idea: put this money on a different account to use it only for literature). Criteria the WSO follows: when one SB asks for financial support for translating, when they apply again for financial help the following year the requests of other countries will be helped first. You can get funds for the whole process of translating and approving. The funds of WSO can also be used for translating the website (not for maintaining the website) or other translation work needed for OA in your country. Contact Esti when more questions;
- Experience of one of the countries: when you donate a 12 and 12 of OA to a library, ask to place it in the Encyclopedia – Dictionary section;

Part 2: Procedure to translate with approval of the WSO

Esti explained each **Licensing Agreement Form (LAF)**: how to use, how to fill in, how to communicate with the WSO. Questions were answered. The three Licensing Agreement Forms will be put on our Region 9 website in the future.

Normally it is up to a SB to start translating, not just one group (suggestion).

You find all the info about translations and the process to follow at www.oa.org : go to the upper right on home page: click 'documents' and then scroll down to 'OA literature translations' and you find the guidelines, the application for funding and the licensing agreement forms.

If your SB needs more time than the LAF says in the first place, just make a request for this by email and attach this request to your already filled in LAF. No need to fill in a new LAF.

Please always include Esti in CC when you make applications to WSO.

LAF 1: Agreement to Translate Overeaters Anonymous Literature

First LAF that has to be sent to the WSO in order to ask for permission to translate OA-literature. The WSO then sends back an electronic and most updated version of the book/pamphlet that you want to translate. You have three years with a possible extension of 12 months to make a draft translation. Translation can be done by an OA member who is a professional translator, just make sure you don't pay them more than a non OA-translator and only pay when work is done.

LAF 2: Agreement to Distribute Translated Overeaters Anonymous Literature for Validation Purposes

With this LAF you ask permission at the WSO to circulate a DRAFT of the translation in the groups. They can give remarks which have to be looked at before making a final translated version. For this procedure (having the draft circulated and looked at by the groups) you have 18 months, with a 6 months extension if needed. After this period you have to send the draft version to the WSO.

LAF 3: Agreement to Publish and Distribute Overeaters Anonymous Literature

This LAF gives your Service Body the permission to to publish and distribute the pamphlet/book into your language for 20 years. You have to send two copies of your finished pamphlet/book to WSO. WSO also asks for 10% of the royalties on the selling of this work (please put in the information of the money sent that it is for royalties of literature). The rest of the royalties can be used by your Service Body.

To use the OA-logo is also permitted by this LAF 3.

Part 3: Two questions from Esti to our SBs

1) Which item does your SB wants to translate in the following year – estimation of costs

- Esti needs projects of translation from as many SBs as possible to present at the WSO. Please send her what your SB wants to translate in the coming year, do this **as soon as possible!** She needs the name of piece of literature, how much money it will cost and the name of the SB applying for the financial help.
- What might be priority to translate? When you open the literature catalogue on the WSO website, everything that is for free, you don't have to get permission to translate, you can do it right away. Every item you want to translate that you have to buy, you also need permission to translate first. What needs to be translated is up to your SB: for example 'The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of OA', 'OA Pocket Reference', (Please read the Translations Guidelines – now downloadable from the WSO website – www.oa.org)

2) Assignment License

- Use this license for the “old” literature, i.e. literature you have translated but has never been approved;
- Fill in just one ‘assignment license’ with the list of all the translated but not approved literature. You can get this form from Esti;
- Everything of “old” literature will be approved this way;
- Send a copy of your LAF to Esti (Region 9 Trustee).

3. Deadline for Ask-it Basket Questions

4. Strategic Plan Presentation

Appendix B: the biker!

- **What do we as OA members want?**
 - Strong meetings – full of abstinent members (idea: in your group cover question 1-6 in one month, the following 6 in the next)
 - Committed service bodies – that carry the OA message
 - The public can find us
 - The professionals know we exist
 - Financially strong so that we can use those finances to carry the messageA Strategic Plan has been formulated by OA as a whole and which encompasses these overall goals into the OA service structure: this is represented by the OA Biker (Appendix B)
- **Strategic Plan**
 - PI and professional awareness:
www.oa.org will be in Spanish
Increase OA awareness among professionals
Attraction card (fork and knife)
 - Strong meetings:
Survey by 2010 to determine the critical demographics of our membership (gender, weight loss, sponsors, etc)
Educate the fellowship about strong meetings (promote abstinence, steps, study of traditions, service and responsibility, available support materials eg handbook and WSO downloadable files, each group to use strong meetings checklist, talk about what makes your meeting strong,

newcomers meetings guidance package for meetings for newcomers with guidance notes (can be translated!)

- **Committed Service Bodies:**

Why are SBs not at Region 9/WSBC?

Delegate Support Fund at WSBC and Representative Support Fund at R9: publicize in OA Increase funds available to support attendance at WSBC and R9

Train all Region Board members to do Steps, Traditions and Concepts workshops and give manual 'Region 9 Board all have the manual but it is difficult to 'train' due to distances – WSBC 2010 will have workshops on this);

Personally invite SBs to attend WSBC and R9

Talk about importance, letters to SBs, phone calls, contact with countries represented at R9

Develop strategy to address barriers

Do you want a Step-Tradition-Concept workshop? Contact Esti and R9 Board

- **Financial health**

Educate fellowship about where funds go and how it relates to groups, to translation, the benefits of being international

7th tradition pamphlet: Finance Com at WSO is working on a summary (a bullet point list) of this pamphlet and 'Give as if your life depended on it' is the new slogan that goes with this pamphlet;

Translation fund at WSO level: you can contribute as well as apply

Possible fundraising by region for another region/WSO

SBs to fund another SB

7th tradition skit on WSO website: this is kind of a play to make it more digestable

- **Dates**

- World Convention OA's 50th Birthday! 26-29th August 2010 Los Angeles

- WSBC 2010 26th April – 1st May

- RCC 15-16th Oct 2010

- 12th Step Within Day 12th December each year

- Region 9 week first week of September

- Delegate support fund application to WSO due 2nd Nov 2009

- New business for WSBC 2010 to WSO 10th Dec 2009

- Region 9 Rep assistance date on form (approximately application 4 months prior to Assembly, answer three months prior to)

- Region 9 Translation Application 31st March to Treasurer

- WSO Translation Application date February (I am checking this one with Esti)

- **Miscellaneous**

- New Lifeline to come (cost and image): more info will come from WSO

- Assembly packet on the website?

- Discussion taking place by RCC: green dot mentor WSBC, how to deal with problems, tech positions and how to deal with them (payment-expertise), over loading of RCC and other service positions etc;

- Service by mail – WSO urgently need sponsors

- Guideline newsletter on www.oa.org

- Meeting list accuracy challenge: email address for WSO use only please encourage this (Give your personal email address to WSO, they will never use it for OA information, only for their own use)

- Links from local websites to WSO website. New aspect of WSO website being worked on was explained- this is WIP;

- Meeting List Details WSO - Stella brought the most recent meetings lists of the countries as is currently on the WSO website-, asked to take your country and check if your list is updated and also the list of the country that you are linked up with at the end of the Assembly – to give you an indication of meetings in that country before you contact them.

- **Finances**

- 2008: contributions down 6% - lifeline overall cost up 33% - literature 0,5% down

- 2009: contributions down 6% - lifeline down further 10% - literature up 1%

- Total spent:

	2008 \$	2007 \$	Per group \$
Group support and admin and lifeline	882.133	845.945	134
Contributions currently	406.546	431.944	
Need to raise a further amount of (if costs funded in total by contributions)	416.187	414.001	

As you can see every group in the world would need to contribute \$134 each per year to cover the whole of the costs of group support etc

- In 2008 – Region 9 contributed \$14.716 in total to WSO from all our 776 groups – this equates to 3% of all contributions of OA to WSO and approximately \$19 per group
- Currently the shortage of income is funded by literature etc
- Number of groups on OA 6514

5. 2009-2010 Budget – Presentation and Discussion

Alison presented the draft Budget. Region 9 contributed 3% of total donations to WSO. Delegate assistance for R9 Assembly was given from R9 to France, Germany and Finland.

6. Reports from Committee Sessions and discussion of any proposals of emergency new business

Finance committee

Report appendix C.

Bylaws committee

Report appendix D

Translations Committee

Report appendix E

Electronic Communications Committee

Report appendix F

Public Information Committee

Report appendix G

12th Step Within Committee

Report appendix H

7. Traditions – Workshop

Stella, Alison and Freija prepared this workshop.

Stella gave an introduction and a volunteer read the 12 Traditions

- Each of the ten situations was on a separate card.
- Attendees were divided into groups and the questions divided among the groups (with the number of the question indicated on each question and giving random numbers to each group). Each group had access to a list of the 12 Traditions.
- Each group was asked to read the statement(s) and to answer the following questions. Is there a break of a Tradition? If so, which one(s)? Discuss and suggest ways in which the issue could be resolved. One member of each group recorded the discussion. Another member to be asked to present the comments to the main body group.
- The feed back was done in the order of the questions (Question 1 first, then question 2 etc).

1. A meeting votes to start each meeting with a reading from The Bible.

(Traditions 4,5,6)

2. A prominent sports figure who has been in program for 7 years offers to represent OA on a local talk show.

(Traditions 11 and 1)

3. A 10-year member of OA is hired to be the new intergroup office manager.
(Not a break of Tradition 8)

4. A member requests a group conscience to discuss asking another member to stop attending meetings because she always comes late and causes a commotion.
(Traditions 3 and 9: at the assembly we thought no break of tradition 9!)

5. An OA member listed her service position in OA under the heading of "Community Involvement" in her resume.
(Tradition 10)

6. At a meeting, a member comments, "I know we're not supposed to give advice, but I just have to tell Mary how she should handle her problem."
(Tradition One)

7. John is elected for his third two-year term as Intergroup chair even though the bylaws state the limit is two two-year terms.
(Tradition 2)

8. A local restaurant offers to serve "OA-approved Meals" to OA members at a 20% discount if the intergroup newsletter will run a free ad for them in their newsletter.
(Traditions 5,6,7, at assembly we thought also break of Tradition 10)

9. A member who owns a printing shop offers to print the intergroup newsletter free of charge.
(Tradition 7)

10. The flyer presented to an Intergroup for approval indicates that an out of town member with 15 years of abstinence would be the leader for the fall retreat.
(No break of Tradition 12)

The workshop was very popular – there was a lot of laughter and it was also pointed out that sometimes it is not always obvious what traditions are being broken – but it is important to constantly be vigilant and study the traditions in meetings.

8. Ask-it-basket

- How easy should we make it for an OA member to find a sponsor? Is it the easier the better? Yes I think so. List of sponsors can help, as well as mentioning it in the meeting format, you can also suggest to take a temporary sponsor if no permanent sponsor is available at the moment.
- Could some people share if their IGs/NSBs have their assemblies and conventions separately/one after another/ same time? Yes sometimes some countries do have their assemblies and conventions running at the same time or immediately after each other. Region 9 Assembly has also been held after a countries national assembly – When I first witnessed this I thought that it may not work – but on the contrary – it worked well and saved on organization of venue etc for the organizing committees.
- What is the difference between a licensed SB and a SB not licensed? According to the Bylaws every SB has to be registered at WSO. Whoever is not registered, doesn't exist as a SB. It might then be an assistance, but can not be represented.
- How secret ought the sponsor-sponsee relationship in the light of the Traditions? When I came to OA I was told not ever tell anyone who is my sponsor. This will enable me to share safely about my relations with the sponsor. In OA we only tell about ourselves, not about others. Anonymity is one of the things we have to keep, not only a suggestion. So we have to be careful not to break anonymity.
- Could you name some ideas that work for encouraging people to do service? Ask somebody to serve when you are sponsoring them, ask somebody to give service in a personal approach, make sure you share about the service structure of OA – many do not know it and if you keep mentioning it – sooner or later it will mean something to them.

- Does our R9 provide financial assistance for reps from R9 to attend WSBC? We as a Region does not provide the financial assistance. But the WSO itself does have funds for reps of regions to attend.
- What is the attitude of OA towards food as such?
OA promotes abstinence as the very thing we stand for – in that context abstinence is defined (see new definition) but our interpretation of our own abstinence is personal to us. It is perfectly OK to mention food in meetings but we do need to be mindful of sharing our experience, strength and hope in this respect i.e. not just a 'foodalog'!
- Are old (10 year old) Lifeline's worth using at a meeting, or is it better to use other OA material? It is ok, but if you have more recent publications of Lifeline, use the most recent ones.
- Our NSB needs financial assistance for translations and sending a delegate to WSBC, but we could donate something to R9 – should we do it or concentrate on being self supporting? This should be brought to group conscience – it is up to the group locally but the very fact that you are discussing it is good in that group conscience is being sought – there is no harm in bringing it up again after time has gone by as situations and opinions change.
- We need contact persons in R9 countries who want to be in contact with the English speaking persons of the English Language Service Board of R9. Can the Secretary pass on all the contacts of this Assembly to the R9 English Language Service Board? All the delegates agreed.
- How does OA approach the problem of anorexia and bulimia? One of the reasons that the definition of abstinence was changed at WSBC last year, was to make it more inclusive for anorexia-bulimia. The current definition is:- *'Abstinence in Overeaters Anonymous is the action of refraining from compulsive eating and compulsive food behaviours. Spiritual, emotional and physical recovery is the result of living the Overeaters Anonymous Twelve –Step program.'* In literature the terms compulsive eaters and compulsive overeaters are interchangeable. In one pamphlet "OA Members Come In All Sizes" #110 you find people with anorexia or bulimia share their stories.
- A new OA group wants to include in its rules that a person cannot share if she/he used tranquilizers. Is that in compliance with our Bylaws (Article III) ? In Tradition 3 it says that when a group has specific rules like these ones, then they have to communicate also that they do not represent OA as a whole. Personal experience: in my home group we had a young mother with her child attend the meeting. The child grew up and when he was 4-5 years old he sat around the table like the OA members and started to listen to our stories. At a business meeting we discussed this because it started to feel as a problem. We found a very heartwarming solution so that the mother could still attend the meeting (she couldn't afford a babysitter) but we would take intervals and play with the child outside of the meeting room.

9. Deadline for submitting Emergency new business Motions

10. Approval and Adoption of 2009-2010 Budget

The Budget 2009-2010 as presented was adopted.
Approved budget appendix I

FRIDAY 9th of OCTOBER 2009

1. Openings and Readings

- For Today
- 12 Steps -12 Traditions – 12 Concepts
- Serenity Prayer
- The total number of voting representatives present is 20. Countries represented come from Egypt, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Finland, Iceland, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Norway, Israel and France. Therefore we have a quorum: more than 5 countries represented. The credential report is accepted;
- We decided to change the agenda slightly and first start with the Bylaws Amendment Motions, followed by the New Business Motions.

2. Formal discussion and vote on:

- **Bylaws amendment Motions**
- **New Business Motions**

Each Bylaws Amendment Motion and New Business Motion (except for those on the consent agenda) was considered in accordance with the Ground Rules and Robert's Rules: (Look at our website for the updated version of the Bylaws of Region 9 and the Policies and Procedures of Region 9 (with the New Business Motions)).

Chart 1: Consent agenda

Bylaws Amendment Motions 1 and 5: were adopted and carried

Business Motions 2 and 5: were adopted and carried

Bylaws Amendment Motions 2 and 4 were pulled from the consent agenda.

Business Motions 4-6-7-8 & 10 were pulled from the consent agenda.

NB Motions BL1, BL5, BM2, & BM5 from this consent agenda that were moved by the chair and adopted were as follows:-

BL 1:- BYLAWS ARTICLE V, SECTION 2

TO ADD:- 'THIS NOTIFICATION WILL INCLUDE AN INVITATION TO THE ASSEMBLY FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, THE REGISTRATION FORM TO SEND A DELEGATE AND A BLANK NEW BUSINESS MOTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT MOTION'

BL 5:- BYLAWS ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 2 F)

This section to read:- 'Nominees who are endorsed will receive up to Euro 980 for their expenses in attending World Service Business Conference if funds permit. Available funds to be apportioned'

BM 2:- Principles and Procedures – assembly

To create a new policy as follows:- 'The hosting service body for the regional Assembly and Convention shall be elected two years prior to running the event'

BM 5:- Principles and Procedures –

To alter the policy so that it reads as follows:- 'The Assembly resolves that priority for financial assistance for Regional representatives travelling to the R9 Assembly will be given to those IGs and NSBs that have never been represented before, secondly to those with the greatest distance to travel'.

Chart 2: Bylaws Amendments Motions (BL)

- **BL2:**
The Bylaws Committee moved that:-

Region 9 OA Bylaws, Article IX, Section 3 – Election of Committee Chairs.

- a. Nominations and elections can be held each year at the Region 9 Assembly.
- a) To be eligible for election, a person must be present at the meeting and an OA member from Region 9. To be elected, a member must receive a majority vote of the representatives present.
- c. Committee Chairs are elected for a two year term.
- d. Committee Chairs should not serve more than two consecutive terms.
The motion was lost after amendment and debate (8 for – 6 against)

- **BL3:**

The Bylaws Committee moved that

Region 9 OA Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2 – Emergency New Business

Bylaw amendments which have not been submitted to the Region Chair seventy-five days before the Assembly and which are considered to be of an emergency nature by the Region 9 Board and Bylaws Committee Chair may be voted on at the Assembly.

The motion was adopted after amendment and debate (19 for – 0 against)

- **BL4:**

The Bylaws Committee moved that:-

Region 9 OA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3 – Elections

a. The nomination and election of *chair* shall be held in *odd* years at the Region 9 Assembly. The nominations and elections of secretary and treasurer shall be held in even years at the Region 9 Assembly.

d. Board members should not serve more than two consecutive terms or five years in the same position. No Board member shall serve for more than eight (8) consecutive years in a combination of positions

The motion was lost after amendment and debate (3 for – 15 against)

Chart 3: New Business Motions (BM)

- **BM1:**

A substitute motion was proposed by the translations committee chair and the Region 9 Chair accepted the substitute motion. The motion was moved that:-

‘An ad hoc committee create a document explaining the procedure for application to the R9 Translation Fund’.

Point of order: the Assembly committee should decide whether we want that document or not: valid point of order. Explained that the ad hoc committee will consult the draft document and those people that contributed to it in drafting the motion.

The motion was adopted after amendment and debate (20 for – 0 against)

- **BM3:**

The NSB of Poland moved that:-

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION TO REGION 9

To suggest to all Region 9 Groups and Service Boards that that they aim to contribute a minimum of 5% of their annual income to region 9.

The suggested contribution however it is paid is payable before 1st September each year.

The motion was adopted after amendment and debate (16 for – 3 against)

- **BM4:**

Was deferred until after lunch

- **BM 8:**

Withdrawn and goes back to the Bylaws Committee to work on and come back next year;

- **BM 9:**

Withdrawn with a request for your SB to consider :- “Does the name ‘Strategic Plan’ put you off? And if so can you think of a better name? Please bring a motion if you think so”;

- **BM 10:**

Withdrawn

- Business Motions 11 -> 15: error sending them out.

Lunch

3. Election of Service Positions – Election of Assembly/Convention Venues for 2010 – 2011 – Liaison with Service Bodies not presented at the Assembly – allocation and adoption of service bodies

Elections of Service Positions:

- Chair: reading of our Bylaws Art VII sect 2: Stella is the only candidate. Stella introduced her application. The vote was done by ballot paper: 21 yes, 0 no and 0 abstentions. Stella from United Kingdom is our Chair of R9 for a second term;
- Secretary: reading of our Bylaws Art VII sect 2. Freija steps down as a Secretary after finishing her term. She gave an explanation of the job and questions were asked. Kaolina from Sweden was nominated as a candidate and she accepted the nomination. She was the only candidate (vote by ballot: 17 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention). Karolina was elected as the new Secretary;
- Chair of Bylaws Committee: Magda from Poland was the only candidate (vote by ballot 20 yes, 1 no). Magda was elected as the new Chair of the Bylaws Committee;
- Chair for the Translations Committee: Olafur from Iceland was nominated and accepted (vote by ballot 21 yes). Olafur was elected as the new Chair of the Translations Committee;
- Chair for the Public Information Committee: Shannon from France was nominated and accepted (vote by ballot 10 yes, 8 no and 3 abstentions). Shannon was elected as the new Chair of the PI Committee. Suggestion was made to have a Vice Chair to support Shannon. Talle from Belgium was elected to support as a Vice Chair.
- Chair for the 12th Step Within Committee: Melanie from the United Kingdom was the only candidate (vote by ballot 21 yes). Melanie was elected as the new Chair of the 12th Step Within Committee;

Discussion/Election of Assembly/Convention Venues for 2010-2011:

- 2010: The Assembly and Convention of Region 9 in 2010 will be held in Iceland. This was voted on and approved. Iceland’s economical situation is not good which will make it cheaper to travel to and stay in Iceland. The organizing committee can choose the topic of the Convention linked to the Assembly. N.B. some dates where it would be difficult to organize the Assembly and Convention: 8-10th Oct (NSB GB national assembly) , 15th-17th Oct (RCC meeting), September (difficult month for other SBs). Suggestion around 15-17th Oct (Stella can fly to the RCC meeting and stops halfway (-;-)) in Iceland or two weeks later (to avoid too much jet lag).
- 2011: OA Egypt invites us to hold the Assembly and Convention 2011 in Egypt. There are no other invitations for now and the decision will be made at the 2010 Assembly. All other countries within Region 9 are welcome to apply to hosting the Assembly and Convention 2011.

Liaison with Service Bodies not presented at the Assembly – allocation and adoption of service bodies

Everybody present at this session: representatives, visitors and Board members got to pick one or more countries which they will try to contact in the following time. They get a list of meetings and contacts from the WSO-website to help them out.

Here are questions you can use when contacting them:

- My duty to reach out as a Region 9 rep;
- Is your group alive and well?
- Is there a reason why you cannot come to R9 Assembly?
- Is there any help we can offer?
- Do you know about the R9 Assistance Fund?
- Do you know about the R9/WSO budget for Assistance of Translation?
- Is your group affiliated with an Intergroup?
- Are you willing to share with me?

- Tell them about R9 Assembly and Convention and what wonderful recovery there is!

4. Formal discussion and vote on:

- **New Business Motions**

Chart 3: New Business Motions (BM)

We continued with BM 4 for the time left.

- **BM4:**

The Bylaws Committee moved that:-

In order to qualify as emergency new business any motion must be:-

- a) Referring to new business only and not addressing the same issues as other motions brought to the current Assembly.
- b) Of an urgent nature so that not considering the motion immediately would be harmful to the welfare of OA as a whole.

The motion was adopted after amendment and debate (15 for – 3 abstentions)

5. Wrap up session

7th Tradition

Responsibility Pledge

The meeting was adjourned at 16.30 for the Committee Sessions to convene and close at 17.00. The Region 9 Assembly will re-convene at a date to be determined in September, October or November 2010.

Thank you for letting me do this wonderful service
It is a pleasure to be among such admirable friends

Freija
Secretary Region 9 (stepping down)