

REGION 9 CHAIR'S REPORT - REGION 9 ASSEMBLY & CONVENTION 2013

We were hosted by Israel this year for the 2013 R9 A&C. We started the Assembly on Wednesday, November 6, to Friday, November 8. The Convention began Friday, November 8, to Saturday, November 9. We continued to celebrate the 30 year birthday of Region 9. Guess where our very first R9 Assembly took place - Israel!

The Assembly began with introductions, announcements, reminders, a fun exercise on clear communication, and a couple of new things were mentioned - the new R9 Tradition 7 Item (wristbands), the PI Postcards that we had for all the representatives to take home, and a R9 archives (which was actually started in 1978!). We also got to hear sponsorship readings which came from various OA Literature, and 3 OA meetings with the topics Abstinence; Steps; and Service.

Some official business was covered - Agenda approval; Assembly Materials Binder; Parliamentary Procedure; Adoption of Ground Rules; Approval of the 2012 Assembly Minutes; Appointment of the Minutes Approval Committee 2013 & Time Keeper; and a General Overview of the Assembly.

The credentials report was taken. During the 3 days, we had 18 Region 9 countries represented - Poland, UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Hungary, Belgium, Russia, Switzerland, Israel, Austria, Estonia, South Africa, Germany, France, and Sweden. We had 30 eligible voters, 2 non-voting members, and 14 or more visitors - they came from Poland, Italy, Greece, Israel, Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa, USA, and Canada. So... this meant we heard the Serenity Prayer in many different languages!

There was the Strategic Plan Presentation, an ice breaker, sharing from the R9 Representatives. Also, a R9 Birthday Celebration, including balloons, "gifts", and Trivia (I admit, the questions were very hard this year!).

Thursday started with questions on the reports from those holding service positions in R9. During the day we had workshops on Tradition 7; Translations; and Abstinence. The 2013 - 2014 R9 Budget was presented and discussed. We got into committees, and the goals were established for the coming year.

We had elections for Region 9 Service Positions. Those voted in were :

Region 9 Chair - Susan, Israel

Banker - Stella, UK

Electronics Communications Committee Chair - Perline, France

Twelfth-Step-Within Committee Chair - Catherine, Italy

Those continuing in their term of R9 service are :

Secretary - Mette, Denmark

Treasurer, & Finance Committee Chair - Isabella, Sweden
Public Information Committee Chair - Debora, Belgium
Bylaws Committee Chair - Siobhan, Ireland
Literature & Translations Committee Chair - Irenne, Denmark
Region 9 Trustee - Esti, Israel

The volunteered position as R9 Newsletter Coordinator is Meike from Netherlands

We also voted on the hosting countries for Region 9 Assembly & Convention in 2014 - Greece, and France in 2015.

On Friday, we had several motions to vote on - with many amendments. Also - 3 Emergency Motions were passed (a letter will come out in regards to all the motions which were discussed and voted on by the Bylaws Committee Chair). We had the approval and adoption of the 2013 - 2014 Budget, and approval of a Suggested 2014 - 2015 Budget (there will also be a letter coming out in regards to the Budget from the R9 Treasurer). We ended with a R9 Birthday Celebration - 5 OA members who were involved, from the beginning, with R9. We all got to hear their marvelous shares. We had a Lifeline Raffle, the Green Dot Ceremony, and a 5 Minute Writing Exercise. We said goodbye till our next Region 9 Assembly on September 17, 2014, in Greece.

We accomplished a lot of business, and yet, we had time to have fun, whether it was with our Trivia or Sponsorship Readings, where the "winner" received a prize, or when we took a break to "exercise". We gave ourselves the chance to laugh!

The Convention started on Friday, and there was an amazing grand opening with all the R9 Representatives coming up to the stage with their countries' flags. Speaker meetings and sharing were held the 2 days. These sessions focused on Abstinence. There were raffles with prizes, and a 50/50 raffle - both days.

I would like to thank everyone for helping and volunteering. A thank you to all the attendees of the R9 Assembly. A big thank you to the Israel National Service Board and all those helpers in the background! We are not alone. Together, we had a very successful and fruitful 2013 Region 9 Assembly and Convention, and I look forward to another term as Region 9 Chair.

Thank you.

Susan
Region 9 Chair