

CHAIRS REPORT TO THE REGION OF Region Chairs Committee (RCC) Meeting (2nd Meeting 2010) and joint Board of Trustees (BOT) with Region Chairs Committee (RCC) and Wed 25th Aug – Thurs. 26th Aug 2010 Los Angeles - USA

Introduction: - The various meetings were held at the Hilton LAX Hotel in Los Angeles just prior to the OA World Convention. This 2nd meeting is normally held in Albuquerque near the World Service Office of OA but as it is a year when there is a Convention (& this year a very special 50th Anniversary Convention year) and OA recognise that it is expensive to transport members around the world – they hold this 2nd meeting in the same place as the convention when appropriate.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) (ten Region Trustees and six General Service Trustees) as well as the Region Chairs and some of the staff from OA World Service Office (WSO) were all present at some or all of the meetings.

The purpose of this 2nd meeting for the Region Chairs is in summary - to discuss how we can best carry the message of OA in our Regions, to consider any concerns we may have and try to support each other in carrying the message and resolving those concerns and to work on the OA strategic plan of how we carry the message as a fellowship. We obviously had a specific agenda ahead of time so that we encompassed these issues with specific tasks.

I attended:-

- Region Chairs Committee (RCC) Meetings
- Region Chairs Committee (RCC) & Board of Trustees (BOT) Joint Meeting
- Strategic Operations Planning meeting

Important things to share with you:-

Abstinence

The main focus in all the work that the RCC does together is to concentrate everything we do and plan to do on Abstinence with a capital A and our primary purpose. The RCC will also be looking at Concept 5 and the chain of concerns around that.

Meeting List Accuracy on the WSO Website

The RCC, BOT & managing director of WSO held an in depth meeting on the data base. Apparently the meeting list part of the website is currently unstable in that information placed in one part of this is not automatically updated properly in other parts – leading to discrepancies which means possible errors in meeting information obtained and consequent hours of work checking for the WSO staff.

The possibilities are that we A) Fix what we have (this isn't possible), B) Redo what we have (expensive) or C) Not have a data base on the OA Web Site i.e. Meetings Lists would be held by the Regions on their own web sites and WSO would still keep lists – but away from the WSO website (this was considered to be duplication of efforts and against our Concepts).

Balanced against all of this was the fact that this area of the website was the most used. The issues surrounding Languages were discussed.

It was unanimously agreed that we want a website with an integral meeting list that works and it was considered by all present that this is of paramount importance.

This no doubt is an on-going concern and I will report back to you when I have more information. We will also discuss at the Region 9 Assembly.

Duties of a Trustee and Time involved were considered - because it was apparent that there was some fear around what was involved. Explained that the time element involved i) time away from home at meetings ii) email response iii) Regional Responsibilities and General Service Responsibilities.

Then a Regional Trustee (RT) explained their duties and responsibilities and in turn a General Service Trustee (GST) did the same.

All said how much they loved the role.

General comments:- reports for meetings required, trustees sat on several committees, don't have to answer every email, could expand to fill extraordinary length of time but need to 'see to life commitments', can be 5hrs week – sometimes 10hrs, GST – 5 meetings in Albuquerque 7 on phone, RT – 4 meetings in Albuquerque and travelling within the region, some trustees had flexible working conditions and good holiday entitlement to fit in the work, some were single.

Focus on Physical Recovery – concern was raised about the way that some OA members looked at Regional & WSBC level and apparent non-physical recovery. Discussion followed and included what was ‘abstinence’ and ‘healthy body weight’. Region 8 put Abstinence first at their Assembly. I would like us to consider this at our Region 9 Assembly.

LIFELINE SUBSCRIPTION

I need to report to you that the number of subscriptions is still going down. We shared ideas for promotion and I will be looking at some of these at our assembly. In the meantime:-

- Do you write articles for Lifeline? Do you ask your Sponsees to subscribe? Has your service body considered buying a subscription and then donating it? Do you circulate the Weekly Email version that we forward on to you? If you don't subscribe now - why not sign up for yourself or a friend?

RCC Operations Section of the Strategic Plan

The overall goal of all of us in OA is to have plenty of Abstinent Members in our meetings – in order to be able to do this the ‘Strategic Plan’ for OA was developed a few years ago and has been worked on in segments ever since. At all levels we are asked in our service bodies – *how does what we are doing help the person in the meeting get well. – Become abstinent.*

A Strategic Plan sounds like a very business like term, - we are not a business but we are ‘in the business of carrying the OA message’ and a Strategic Plan will keep us focused in our journey to help OA to grow and to ensure that we all keep focused on the responsibility pledge:

“When anyone, anywhere reaches out their hand, I want the hand of OA to be there, and for this I am responsible”

The Strategic Plan has four main goals which filter into each service level as well as us individuals and in turn into an Operations Plan – i.e. the section where we actually decide what we are physically going to do & who will be assigned to do it. .

You may have seen the OA Bicycle – we all need to bear in mind that the Abstinent member is driving it – the Bicycle rolls on & on. Our HP, The Steps, The Traditions etc each have a role to play – we in the fellowship all are parties to it and we all have assigned tasks to do – these will mainly be done in committees rather than leaving things to individuals but we each need to take our part in that work – the RCC included.

The joint RCC & BOT meeting discussed and came up with ideas to further our plans and also where we were up to with our goals so far. We came up with lots of fresh ideas and suggestions which have all now been included in an up to date Strategic Plan. I will attach to this report. Please ask your service body to review the OA Strategic Plan and allocate tasks where it feels appropriate. We will be working on this in the forthcoming Region 9 Assembly.

Misc. – The Region Chairs discussed and will continue to

- Assist in the Green Dot Mentor Program at WSBC.
- Organise the Wednesday Forum at WSBC. – We worked on a topic and questions etc. for 2011 and are well on our way. – We will continue this by email and at the 3rd RCC meeting. The forum this coming year is entitled ‘Celebrating Recovery’ - Physical, Emotional & Spiritual’ – do attend – it promises to be fun as well as have great recovery content.
- We discussed the fact that the workshops available for the Concepts of Service are somewhat ‘dry’ – so we have committed to working on this.
- The Region Chairs are constantly working on a RCC handbook to assist current and future Region Chairs. We now have our own Website which we post ideas that we share with each other.
- The Region Chairs and Trustees were given a preview on a ‘sitcom’ show entitled ‘Mike & Molly’ that will be shown on TV in America – it will include some coverage on OA meetings. It looked fun and no doubt will get the OA name into the public domain. We did have some concerns about some aspects of how OA meetings and members will be seen on the show – these were voiced and the producers took our concerns away.
- We agreed to work on a skit for Strong meetings. This will be done by a subcommittee by email.
- We looked at the Region Trustee affirmation process within each of our regions – Bylaw Motion BL2 which is due to come up at the Region 9 Assembly is connected with this.
- We looked at the problems with RCC members incurring personal costs for child care etc. when attending these long distance meetings. – This is for consideration at Region level if at all. I will not be raising it at Region 9.
- Region Budget comparisons – I had prepared a summary comparing each regions budget – so that we could help each other see how each region used its financial resources to spread the message. This was considered in the context of very different regions and will be kept up to date for future reference by Region Chairs.

WSBC Committees

At the WSBC in 2010 a concern was raised at the lack of attendance in the Finance Committee- this consisted of only 3 / 4 people. The ideal scenario is to have representation from all regions on each of the committees and a balanced number on each committee. Apparently there can be a lack of commitment to sign up ahead of time. The RCC discussed and agreed that this could be covered by changing the registration document.

If you are attending WSBC in 2011 (and in the future) please sign up ahead of time for a committee and please try to ask your service body and yourself to be flexible in the circumstances where some committees are over - subscribed and others lacking in numbers. Please also consider that every time the group conscience of OA adds a committee to WSBC (or Region for that matter) it depletes the numbers attending the existing committees.

3rd RCC Meeting

We arranged the RCC visit to Region 4 in Oct 2010 and discussed the Assembly topic and how we would share at the assembly / convention.

NB In 2011 this meeting will be hosted by Region 8 and may be in Columbia in the first week of November. In 2012 it will be Region 1.

Once again it was a full and packed few days for all present.

I am now in my second term and third year as Region Chair - I felt that I knew what would be expected of me before I attended and went prepared.

I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to trying to implement the tasks requested of me.

I look forward to seeing you all in Iceland in October – the few days we have are of course to consider the business of Region 9 but there are also lots of recovery workshops and meetings planned so do please come along as a visitor if you are not an Intergroup or Service Board Representative. You can join in with the committee meetings, the workshops and of course the regular OA meetings planned in the few days around the Assembly.

Please see the Region 9 website for further information on the Region 9 Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Kind Regards –

Stella

Stella Cooke (Region 9 Chair)

OA Region 9 Statement of Purpose:-

'To carry the OA message to the still suffering compulsive overeaters, wherever they live and whatever language they speak. In fulfilling our purpose, we should ever strive to achieve worldwide unity and common policies among our countries. With love and tolerance as our code, together we can do what we could never do alone.'

OA 50th World Convention 2010

Words cannot convey how wonderful this event was. There were 4 days of wonderful meetings and workshops – all with excellent recovery topics. If you didn't manage to get there – do try to order some of the CDs.

During the week – I was asked to take one of the writing workshops – in this I looked at the new tool 'Action Plan'. I also sat on a panel for Sponsorship in one of the other workshops and also spoke where appropriate at other meetings and workshops.

Region 9 Meeting @ World Convention

We decided to hold an 'ad hoc' informal meeting for Region 9 OA members for just an hour during the convention. This was well attended – we discussed concerns in various countries as well as the finances of OA. Please refer to my report on the WSBC earlier this year which looks at the finances of OA Inc.