

Dear Region 9 Service Bodies

16 January 2012

Hello to you from the Region 9 Bylaws Committee Chair. I am writing to you following the wonderful R9 Assembly and Convention in Belgium in October 2011 to highlight the various bylaw amendments that we agreed upon.

It is part of the duty of each service body to ensure that your bylaws are up to date and coincide with changes made at World Service Business Conference and Region 9 where matters affect more than just those events. To ease understanding of the final outcomes, I have NOT included amendments that were lost and I have not included details of the original text if it subsequently was changed, so only the eventual wording is listed.

BL 1 Bylaws Article XII Section 1. To clarify that we are talking about the Region 9 Assembly.

“Proposed amendments should be submitted to the Region 9 Bylaws Committee at least ninety days before the Region 9 Assembly, and are to be submitted in writing, by this committee to the Region 9 Chair at least seventy five days before The Region 9 Assembly.”

Please ensure that your bylaws and any policy manuals / calendars you have reflect these dates and that you send items to the following email bylaws@oaregion9.org

BL 2 Bylaws Article VII, Section 3b To comply with wording used in OA.

“...In addition each candidate for the Region Board shall have where possible at least one year of current abstinence and at least two years of service beyond group level at the time of election.”...

Please ensure that your bylaws state the above criteria for anyone you wish to put forward as a candidate for a R9 board position.

BL 4 Bylaws Article XI Section 1 To clarify wording regarding who to refer major policy matters to.

“Matters which relate to major policy affecting Overeaters Anonymous as a whole shall be referred to the Region 9 Trustee or another member of Overeaters Anonymous Inc. World Service Board of Trustees.”

Please ensure your Board members are aware of this and have up to date contact details for our trustee

BL 5 Bylaws Article IV, Section 2b To clarify wording and include Virtual Service Board.

“Representatives from National/Language/Virtual Service Boards, who are registered with the World Service Office and who are within the geographical boundaries of Region 9. National/ Language/ Virtual Service Boards shall not represent Intergroups which have sent representatives to the Assembly, however if all Intergroups are represented, the National/ Language/ Virtual Service Board will still be entitled to one representative.”

Please ensure that your bylaws are amended to be in line with the above

BL 8 Bylaws Article IV, Section 2 To clarify wording regarding OA visitors attending R9 Assembly.

“ a) OA Visitors from Region 9 who already have a representative attending the Assembly from their service body will not be given a voice or a vote.”

b) The Region 9 Assembly is open to OA visitors from inside and outside Region 9.”...

Please ensure that if your bylaws/ policy manuals mention R9 Assembly information about visitors that they are amended to reflect the above.

BL 9 Bylaws Article XII, Section 2 Emergency bylaw amendments

“Bylaw amendments, including items raised during the Assembly by a Committee, 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 the Bylaws Committee Chair may be voted on at the Assembly.”

Please ensure that your bylaws reflect the above and any guidance given to R9 representatives so that they are aware of their roles and responsibilities when on a R9 committee.

BM 1 Policies and Procedures re R9 Assembly Procedures and Suggestions

To adopt into the Region 9 Policies and Procedures Manual the document circulated at 2010 Region 9 Assembly entitled “Overeaters Anonymous Region 9 – Assembly Procedures and Suggestions.”

Please ensure that you have a copy of this prior to considering hosting an Assembly

BM 2 Policies and Procedures IV Region 9 Translations

To strike and insert:

“TRANSLATION GUIDELINES

The Translation guidelines submitted by the R9 Translations committee in 1999 and updated in 2002 and approved in 2005 have now been rescinded and R9 will now refer to the document “OA GUIDELINES – TRANSLATION GUIDELINES FOR OA LITERATURE” which is available on the www.oa.org website for the worldwide fellowship of OA.”

Please ensure that your translations committee have a copy of these updated guidelines

BM 5 Policies and Procedures Article V Finance and Budget

To insert:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DELEGATES TO REGION 9 ASSEMBLY

Financial assistance be granted to delegates travelling to Region 9 Assemblies. Draft claim form approved. (1985b)

That the mailings to all member groups and Intergroups as in article 5(ii) of the Bylaws, shall include applications for assistance. This application form will also be posted on the R9 website. Completed application forms will be submitted to the R9 Treasurer at least 4 months prior to the date of the Assembly. It is requested that the service bodies attach to the application form for assistance – the latest financial summary of the service body and that they give details of any funding for attendance at Region 9 Assembly from elsewhere. The Region 9 Board are authorized to consider (by email) those applications (2008e)

The Assembly resolves that priority for financial assistance for Regional representatives travelling to the R9 Assembly will be given to those IGs and NSBs with the greatest distance to travel and secondly to those attending their first Assembly. (1996h)

The Board is authorized to make a decision on transferring up to EUR 2400.00 (GBP 1700.00) from Service to Delegate Assistance, 3 months before the next Assembly, whenever that takes place. (2007a)

Payment of this assistance will be at the Assembly itself.

Please ensure that your bylaws / policies / calendars reflect the amendments above and that your service body board are aware of the changes in assistance.

BL 6 Abstinence requirements for R9 representatives to the R9 Assembly

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP OF REGION 9 ASSEMBLY Section 3 – Qualifications

Additional wording:

- a Each representative shall be elected by the Intergroup, National/Language Service Board or unaffiliated groups they serve.
- b The term of Region 9 representative shall be designated by their Intergroup, National / Language Service Boards or unaffiliated Groups & each representative is always subject to recall by those who selected them.
- c) Each representative should have a minimum of six (6) consecutive months of current abstinence
Please ensure that your bylaws and policies reflect the above amendment and your service body board are aware of the changes prior to electing a R9 representative

BM 3 Region 9 Policies and Procedures Article V Finance and Budget Financial Assistance for Delegates to Region 9 Assembly.

New Wording:

“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 cannot afford to fund a delegate on their own, to those with the greatest distance to travel and to those attending their first Assembly. (1996h).”

Please ensure that your policies and service body board are aware of the above changes

BL 3. Article III, Section 1 “The Definition of a Group”

Amended wording: The points that define an Overeaters Anonymous Group are listed in OA Inc Bylaws, Subpart B Article V, Section I Overeaters Anonymous Groups.

- a) These points shall define an Overeaters Anonymous group:
 - 1) As a Group, they meet to practice the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous guided by the Twelve Concepts of OA Service.
 - 2) All who have the desire to stop eating compulsively are welcome in the group.
 - 3) No member is required to practice any actions in order to remain a member or to have a voice (share at a meeting)
 - 4) As a Group they have no affiliation other than Overeaters Anonymous
 - 5) It has affiliated as an Overeaters Anonymous group by registering with the World Service Office.
- b) Virtual Groups (groups which replicate face-to-face meetings through electronic media) may be an Overeaters Anonymous group if they:
 - 1) Otherwise meet the definition of Overeaters Anonymous groups
 - 2) Are fully interactive, and
 - 3) Meet in real time.

Please ensure that your bylaws reflect the above changes to the definition of a group

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In love and fellowship,

Joanna C

Bylaws Committee Chair, UK

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