

REGION 9 CHAIR'S REPORT OF THE 2ND REGION CHAIRS COMMITTEE

As Region 9 Chair, on August 16 - 18, 2012, I attended the joint meeting of the Region Chairs Committee (RCC) and the Board of Trustees (BOT), in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. This consisted of 10 Region Chairs, 10 Region Trustees, 1 Virtual Service Trustee, and 6 General Service Trustees, along with some of the staff from OA World Service Office (WSO).

This meeting for the Region Chairs had a purpose - to discuss how we can best carry the message of OA in our Regions, to talk about any concerns we may have, and to support each other in carrying the message. We also worked on the OA Strategic Operations Plan (SOP), and the Forum, which the Chairs are responsible for at World Service Business Conference (WSBC). All of this points us in the direction of how to carry the message to our Fellowship.

I shared a room with the Region 8 Chair, who is the Chair of the RCC. This was very helpful for each of us. Not only have we become good friends, but we co-sponsored each other. Rooming together also gave us more time to go over the business of the RCC before each meeting - since I am Vice Chair of the RCC, I need to assist her during the meetings.

Shortly after arriving at the hotel, an OA friend from Albuquerque took me to the supermarket to buy some food. "First Things First" - my Abstinence is # 1. I was lucky enough to see most of the Trustees, just by chance, and that was a nice way to start it all. The Chairs, on August 16, started with an informal meeting of the RCC. Friday and Saturday were long days with long meetings, but all were fruitful.

The first RCC (formal) Meeting - some of the topics which we discussed:

- WSBC Delegate Support Fund - even though we changed our bylaws 2 years ago to send the R9 Secretary or Treasurer to WSBC, it is beyond our financial ability to help Delegates from R9 Countries. Therefore, it is so important that we in R9 are aware of the fund which helps delegates attend the WSBC. The deadline is November 1, 2012. Information is on the OA Website.
- RCC Motion for 2013 WSBC - this motion speaks about the Concepts of OA Service and that each group abide by these concepts of OA as a whole.
- Forum 2013 - title and ideas...
- SOP - how each Region accomplishes the goals of the Strategic Plan.
- RCC goals - continue to promote Lifeline; Delegate education,...
- Language Issues - I (very proudly) showed our Translation List to the Chairs, and gave an explanation of the Licences needed for Translation of OA Literature. Also discussed Royalties. We also spoke about our Service Bodies being aware of the importance of sharing their Translation List with their Region and to forward it on to WSO.
- WSBC Delegate Eligibility - to ensure more qualified delegates attend (abstinence...).
- Green Dot Mentor Program - this is also the RCC's responsibility for WSBC.
- Lifeline - increasing subscriptions... R9 will have a Lifeline subscription as a raffle prize at R9 Assembly & Convention (R9 A&C).

Joint RCC/BOT Meeting:

- Region Chairs Report to BOT - updates in each Region. Some of the things I brought up for R9 were: strengthening communication in R9 with the R9 Chair's Monthly Report; R9 Newsletters; Skype meetings with the R9 Board & Committee Chairs; Emails & Website. Also, the Bylaws that will be

presented and voted on at R9 Assembly. And R9's 30 Year Birthday and Celebrations which will be at the R9 Assembly (Trivia, Balloons, and a lot more fun).

- Forum; SOP; Language Issues (I proudly showed the BOT the Translation List from R9); WSBC Delegate Qualifications; Goals; OA Website. I was educated on how easy it is to make a Tradition 7 Contribution on-line in the OA Website, especially for Virtual Meetings.
- Ice Breakers - a nice way to get to know the Trustees and Chairs better.

The second Joint RCC/BOT Meeting:

- Region Chairs, Trustees, and Staff split into four groups to create tasks for each of the objectives for the four main categories of the SOP (Strong Meetings, Public/Professional Awareness, Committed Service Bodies, Financial Health). I joined the Strong Meetings group, and our ability to work together and come up with ideas amazed me. When we got back together as a whole, we had to vote on each of the suggested tasks for action. This was group conscience in action. Really nice to see the efficiency of it all!
- As an example to what I spoke about above:
 1. Strong Meetings - Educate members of the available support materials / emphasize use of a wider variety of OA literature in meetings (at the R9 Assembly, we will be doing exactly that!).
 2. Public/Professional Awareness - Educate Fellowship on how to research local events and importance of participation / generate and distribute "Open Your Eyes" Document.
 3. Committed Service Bodies - Promote exchange between neighboring Service Bodies to bring fresh recovery to one another / investigate Service Body interest in developing a resource page or dropdown on OA website such as "what would be helpful", newsletters, Power Points, willingness to share. Sort out a process for the review and upload of "said" resources.
 4. Financial Health - Increase attendance at World Service Convention (WSC) 2013 / promote "1300 (people) in 2013" campaign (Convention will be in Cleveland, Ohio, USA end of August 2013).
- These ideas, and many more, will be presented at the 2013 WSBC.

The second RCC Meeting:

- Forum planning session - title; purpose; session table assignment; pre-session icebreaker; table discussions; presentation; post-presentation skit; take away; questions; task assignments.
- SOP; Financial Comparisons; Website / Dropbox; RCC Information Sheet; RCC Manual; Green Dot Mentor Program (WSBC); RCC Mentor Program; 3rd RCC Meeting; Follow Up Tasks...

Overall, what we want to emphasize in the Regions is the importance of Abstinent Members and Abstinent Sponsors. To work the Steps, uphold the Traditions, follow the Concepts of OA Service, and to use the Tools. On a personal note, I want to share with you my feelings from attending the OA Meetings. To sit with the Region Chairs and Trustees, I realized how strongly we are all the same. That we are all here for one common reason - to find a solution to our food problem. And that is just one of the 9 tools - Meetings!

Thank you all so much for giving me this opportunity to represent Region 9. To give service, and to grow as an individual. I am truly grateful.

Susan
Region 9 Chair