



July 2014

Region 9 Trustee's Courtesy Report

Dear OA friends and representatives,

Region 9 consists of Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Western Asia. The updated report to June 2014 indicates that we have 858 registered groups in our Region, 687 of them are affiliated and 171 are unaffiliated. We have 47 Intergroups and 13 Service Boards.

It seems that we had our previous Assembly just not long ago. My service as Region 9 Trustee is full of activities. Being the liaison between our region and the Board of Trustees, means that I have to attend the Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings four times a year and report on the activities of our region.

I also attend the Region 9 Board meetings which are held once a month through Skype. Once every two months, the chairs of the committees join us as well. Due to the miracles of technology we can discuss our business on a regular basis.

Part of my service as a trustee is to visit the fellowship throughout the region, lead workshops and participate at assemblies and conventions that I am invited to.

At the beginning of October 2013, I visited Spain. I attended a meeting in Madrid, and from there went to Torremolinos near Malaga to attend the Spanish NSB Assembly and Convention on October 4-6.

The location of the convention was a resort on the Mediterranean Sea with nice facilities and many temptations for both representatives and the attendees. The organizers thought that next time they will look for a location with fewer temptations so that participants are more focused on the event.

The theme of the convention was **The Promises**. There were 80 people in attendance who enjoyed the topics and the sharing. They held an open meeting for the press and families of OA members. The press sent a photographer who did not know anything about OA or anonymity requirements, and it took us some time to persuade him to interview one of the members without shooting his face and to make some photos of the audience from behind.

I held two workshops, one about abstinence and the other about sponsorship, both of which got good feedback. A few days ago, I received an email telling me that they are planning to do some workshops on abstinence in different places in Spain and that it helped members with their abstinence.

On October 18-20, I attended the NSB Assembly and Convention in Poland in a little village named Suprasel, 15 kilometers from Bialystok in the east. There were 22 representatives and officers.

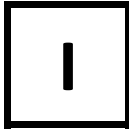
They discussed some motions and made several decisions:

- Prepare guidelines for officers and for convention organizers
- Ask somebody to write the history of OA in Poland
- Take off the list of OA meetings a forum that is not an OA meeting
- Not to allow to do more than one service at a time
- Amend the bylaws so the requirement for abstinence for certain service positions will be mandatory and not a suggestion

The assembly was held in a very calmed way but was not conducted according to Robert's rules. I encouraged them to do so for next time and save a lot of time.

There were 65 attendees at the convention and there were different meetings with different topics such as "What do I bring with me to this convention? How do I use the tools to deal with relapse? Isolation of OA members, Joy and Gratitude in OA, self-esteem of OA members. In the last meeting we shared what we take home from the convention.

I did two workshops, one of Tradition 7, which was very important for them, and the other about abstinence.



On my way to November BOT meeting I visited the OA fellowship in Cork Ireland. I was asked to do a workshop about Traditions which the Board of the local Intergroup thought it was a must but only few members showed up for the workshop which was a great disappointment to me and to the Board of the IG. I attended several meetings and talked to members. I was told that even there were only a few members at the workshop my visit held the Cork fellowship.

A few days before OA's 54th birthday, Rozanne S., our founder, passed away. It is very sad; many of us, me included, owe her our lives. And whenever I think about our founder and Region 9, I always remember her vision right then at the beginning, when she realized that the 12-steps program of GA can help her and decided to start a meeting dedicated to this problem. She then talked to Jim W., who asked her: "Are you talking about starting a local group or a few groups in the city?" "Oh no," she shook her head, "I know that someday my organization will be as big as AA or bigger, and it will be all around the world" (Beyond My Wildest Dreams p 8-9).

I attended some meetings to commemorate Rozanne including a special meeting at WSBC 2014 with some of her family. We will always remember her as the one who started to spread the message of OA and saved our lives.

WSBC 2014 was held in Albuquerque from April 28 to May 3. The theme of the Conference was " Our Primary Purpose" it was a very busy week with Board meetings, Business meetings, Workshops, Committee meetings, a Forum and OA meetings at least 3 times a day. Region 9 representatives were very active at the Conference and they will probably bring home a lot of recovery and new ideas.

At the end of May I visited the French fellowship attended the French NSB business meetings where they discussed the Region 9 Assembly that is planned to be in France in 2015. The business meeting and the Convention took place in a missionary, in the area of Lyon- Chaponost France. The Theme of the Convention was " Action Plan ..and Become Who You Really Are " . About 60 members attended the Convention there were some visitors from Switzerland and Greece. I held a workshop about Abstinence and about Service and the structure of OA. It was a great Convention with a lot of spirituality, love and recovery.

I attended the Assembly and Convention of the Israeli fellowship on June 13-14 where they approved the financial statements, elected members to the NSB, got reports from the officers and IG chairs and discussed some motions. The theme of the Convention was " How to work the program" and it was done with writing workshops , panel speakers and sharings. 40 members attended the Assembly and 150 members attended the Convention.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I served as the Trustee Co-Chair of the Unity with Diversity Committee of WSBC. I CoChaired the Committee meeting at WSBC 2014 and helped them with establishing the short term goals as well as the long terms goals for the year 2014- 2015. At the end of WSBC I had to step down from this service as my term was over.

I will chair the International Publications/ Translation Board Committee till next WSBC at May 2015. I would like to remind you of the importance of translating OA literature as a tool to spread the message, that WSO as well as Region 9 are willing to help you with translations and allocate funds for this purpose. If you have any questions or needs, please contact me.

As part of my service, I have to review the Bylaws of the Intergroups and Service Bodies in Region 9 and to make sure that they are in compliance with the OA Bylaws Sub Part B.

I spend quite a lot of time answering questions from members in our Region whether they are sent directly to me or forwarded to me by WSO; so if you have a question in the future, you can contact me. This is my last year of serving as Region 9 Trustee. It is a lot of work, a lot of traveling but it is very rewarding. I learn a lot and keep growing spiritually. We have OA meetings and activities in 52 countries out of the 134 countries in Region 9. There is still a lot to do to spread the OA message in Region 9, I'll keep doing my service till I finish my term and I am sure that the next Region 9 Trustee will do it even better.

Thank you, Region 9, for giving me the opportunity to do this service.

Love in service

Esti O.

Region 9 Trustee