

Region 9 Assembly & Convention ... September 17 - 21, 2014

This year we had R9's A&C in Greece. There was so much hospitality, pre-planning, and concern for all of us R9 Representatives and visitors. It was amazing.

The assembly took place from Wednesday, September 17, till Friday, September 19. We had R9 Representatives coming from England; Netherlands; Denmark; Italy; Greece; Ireland; Hungary; Belgium; Israel; South Africa; Sweden; France; Lebanon; Egypt; and Iceland. We had visitors from Greece; Poland; Switzerland; France; Cyprus; and England.

Each Representative had a chance to share about their Service Body's triumphs and/or difficulties. We had an Ask-It-Basket, with some answers in the September R9 Newsletter. The remaining questions will appear in the November R9 Newsletter. We saw the translations from R9 (15 different languages!) of the Strong Abstinence Checklist. Of course, we got to hear the Serenity Prayer in so many languages - always an amazing thing to witness.

During the assembly, we had some of the usual tasks at hand - service position elections; motions; 2 budget approvals; workshops; readings; trivia; and tradition 7 items to sell. We also had to vote on whether or not to give 2 Representatives a voice and a vote during the assembly - they both came from unaffiliated service bodies. We voted on who could be R9's delegate/s to WSBC 2015 with funding from R9. Also, we voted on endorsement of 2 R9 Trustee Nominees.

Service Positions for 2014-2015 :

- Susan - R9 Chair
- Mette - R9 Secretary
- Aileen - R9 Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair
- Esti - R9 Trustee
- Stella - Acting Banker **
- Perline - Webmaster
- Catherine - Twelfth Step Within Committee Chair
- Irenne - Literature & Translations Committee Chair
- Meike - Bylaws Committee Chair
- Miranda - Public Information Committee Chair
- Chryssa - Newsletter Coordinator

I'd like to thank, again, those who held service positions in R9 and who are not continuing - Isabella, Siobhan, and Deborah.

** We still need to fill the service position of Banker. If you live in the U.K, meet the qualifications, and are interested in taking on this important service position, please email me.

Motions : This year we had many motions on the consent agenda, a lot clarifying or changing some wording, correcting grammar, updating information, or updating the Banker role. Motions which were discussed separately had to do with R9 Trustee Nominees, financial support to R9 Representatives coming to R9 A&C, and R9 Treasurer job description. There were many other motions which we did not get to - these will be submitted by the maker of the motion and be included at the R9 A&C 2015 in France. A detailed explanation of the motions which were covered at the Assembly will be included in the minutes of the R9 A&C.

Budgets : We discussed and voted on two budgets. One was for the 2014 - 2015 year, and the 2nd budget covering the 2015 - 2016 year. As an example, one of the budget lines which we were able to increase for the coming year is the financial support to R9 Representatives coming to R9 A&C (this was connected to one of the motions I mentioned above).

There was an Abstinence Workshop, Translations Workshop, Readings on All 12 Steps, and Trivia (these will be posted in the R9 Website). We sold 2 R9 Tradition 7 Items - card cases, and luggage tags. Lebanon & Egypt were given a vote and a voice during the Assembly (they are both unaffiliated Service Bodies). R9 voted to endorse 2 R9 Trustee Nominees - myself, Susan, and Stella. In April at the WSBC, the actual vote will take place.

This year was my 3rd year as Region 9 Chair, and running the Assembly felt different for me this time around. There were changes, additions, subtractions - to the Agenda and the running of the assembly. This was a great lesson for me. To be more flexible and accepting.

The convention was fantastic - many topics and many speakers. Also, to be able to hear the history of OA in Greece was really nice. Saturday night was a fun night, and we surely did have fun. We had a Lifeline Raffle, 50/50 Raffle, and an "Auction", followed by a very creative activity, and then dancing!

I want to thank all those who made Region 9 Assembly & Convention 2014 in Greece a terrific event. To thank those who have finished their service positions and those who have taken on a new service position within Region 9.

Most of all, I want to thank all of you for the support I have received, as Region 9 Chair, and I am very grateful that I can do this service.

Susan, Region 9 Chair