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Welcome to Region 9 Assembly 2016.

As Region 9 Representatives to assembly, you will be:

- Sharing ideas and solutions
- Reaching informed group conscience on issues
- Voicing your (and your Service bodies) opinions
- Choosing people who are R9’s trusted servants
- Looking at finances and setting the budget
- Discussing and voting on motions
- Participating in workshops
- Helping set goals for R9 coming year
- Committing to service work for the coming year

Your ideas, questions and participation are vital to recovery in Region 9 whether you are a “seasoned” representative or a “Green Dot.”

We will have an opening session on the Wednesday evening of the Assembly where you can share your service bodies' triumphs or concerns - please consider anything you might like to bring to this session before you come.

**NEW:** This year the Board along with the Committee Chairs have decided to trial a new way of structuring our approach to achieving our service objectives in Region 9. We will not be having committee groups and meetings this year. Instead we will be following a “Goal/Task” model for our service work. We will all participate in agreeing major goals for Region 9 for the coming year. Then we will determine tasks to accomplish these goals. Finally we then group into “Task Forces” who will plan how to go about the tasks in the coming year. This different approach allows opportunities for us to carry the message in the same areas we have in the past: Literature & Translations, Electronic Communications, Bylaws Policy & Procedure, Public Information, Finance, Twelfth-Step-Within. We are excited and hope this new structure will strengthen our efforts to carry the message of OA recovery in our region. **We will explain this in more detail at the assembly.**

**SERVICE COORDINATORS:** Along with the different service structure, we have identified the need for some on going positions to be filled so that vital service work is carried out in the coming year. **These positions can be filled by R9 Reps or by other fellows in Region 9.** Please consider if you-or someone in your service body - would like to serve Region 9 as:
Newsletter Coordinator, Spanish Language Service Board Rep, Web coordinator, Bylaws and P&P Coordinators (two people), Sponsor List Coordinator, Master Glossary List Coordinator, Countries Outreach Coordinators (two people).

If we have more than one person wanting to do a position, we will either have them serve together or have an election.

For questions or to express interest in these positions, please contact the R9 Chair (chair@oaregion9.org). Incumbents will be considered if they wish to stay in the position for the coming year. Our intent is to fill these positions in the best possible manner so service work gets done.

ELECTIONS: We will be holding elections for: R9 Secretary, R9 Treasurer and WSBC Delegate(s) from R9. You can send your application for these ahead, or stand for the office at the assembly. We will also elect at assembly within our Task Forces - Task Force Coordinators (similar to Committee Chair positions; responsible for coordination efforts, maintaining focus, leading the group, and reporting progress.) Reports and attendance at Skype meetings will be requested for most of the positions.

I look forward to serving with you at the Region 9 Assembly and hope you have fun while serving. My wish is you each find that this experience enhances your recovery.

Francene,
Region 9 Chair
REGION 9 ASSEMBLY GENERAL INFORMATION

The two days of the assembly (from 5PM on Wednesday to 5PM on Friday) are full and busy. Please go through the attached assembly packet ahead of time.

Green Dots: Green dots are service body representatives at assembly for the first time. Having a green dot on your badge helps everyone know you’re “new” so we can assist and make your first assembly experience a good one. Each “green dot” will be assigned to a more experienced representative – a mentor - who will assist them. (More information on this will come to you via email before assembly.)

Vital Link: PLEASE Read the “Vital Link” document FIRST as it will address many of your questions about assembly and your duties there.

Assembly Material: This is your assembly packet. We’ve tried to include everything you will need here. Sometimes we send corrections or additions later. Take your time but review all the material carefully before your arrive. Make notes where things are unclear or you have questions. If you are a green dot – talk to your mentor about what you need to “print.”

Seating of Representatives: We ask green dots to sit with their mentors. Depending on the venue, we may assign seating or you may be free to choose and move about from session to session. If you have special needs, please let us know so we can accommodate them as much as possible.

Business Discussions: We are all passionate about OA, but we don’t all have the same opinions and views. At times, debate can get passionate as we decide what’s best for Region 9. The R9 Board will do its best to answer questions, keep us on track, and move through our agenda items timely. Anyone can ask for the “serenity prayer” to be said if needed.

Motions: There are Bylaws(BL) and New Business Motions (NB). Please go over them before the assembly so you are prepared for discussions and voting. You may contact the maker of the motion ahead of time with questions or concerns. Time permitting we will also have a “motions informal” session before formally discussing the motions. Please refer to the “Charts” which show motions to be voted on in the “consent agenda” (no discussion) and those which will be deliberated. Look over each motion individually in addition to the Charts that show an overview.
**OA Meetings:** There will be OA meetings during the assembly days. Details will be given at the beginning of the assembly. Your recovery comes first here as always. Ask for help or support if you need it.

**Country Outreach:** This year (2016-17) the efforts to outreach to R9 countries will be coordinated by two service officers. They may contact you during the year for help, or if you become aware any information that would help us reach out to R9 countries and their meetings/service bodies you may pass it along to them.

**Translation list:** The literature translation list, which has appeared in our R9 assembly information in the past, is being changed to reside on our WSO website. Details will be made available later.

**Other Purposes of Assembly:**

To carry the OA message of recovery within Region 9. To reaffirm OA unity within Region 9. To report and discuss the different activities in the Region since the last assembly. To serve as a place where R9 fellows can get together to share their common experiences, problems, and solutions. To receive input from the BOT through the Trustee and receive more information and news about OA as a whole.

**Assembly Evaluation:** We welcome feedback and look for ways to improve the experience for all of us in Region 9.

**Service Opportunities:** Elections will be held for officer positions and for other R9 Service positions. Please consider how you may be of service to Region 9 this coming year. The assembly is only two days, but our efforts to carry the message of recovery in Region 9 continue throughout the year.

**Bringing the Message Home:** Keep in mind reporting back to your service body the activities, details of workshops, and business proceedings as you experience the assembly.

Thank you for being at assembly, for giving service, and representing your service body.

If you have questions or concerns prior to attending the assembly – please contact your assigned mentor or a Region 9 officer.
REGION 9 ASSEMBLY...OCTOBER 26-28, 2016
Hoeven, Netherlands

PLEASE WEAR BADGES TO ALL SESSIONS

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2016

17:00 – 18:30 ASSEMBLY SESSION 1

**Getting Started**
- Introductions
- Welcome
- Thanks You's
- Green Dots
- Announcements

**Credentials Report**

Unaffiliated Service Bodies (voting)

**Business Basics**
- Assembly Overview & Process (binder)
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Agenda Approval
- Adoption of Ground Rules
- Approval of the 2014 Assembly Minutes
- Appointment of the Minutes Approval Committee
- Timekeeper & Timing

**Getting to know each other**

18:30 – 19:45 Dinner Break

20:00 – 21:15 WORKSHOP 1

SHARING AND PROBLEM SOLVING in Region 9.
Triumphs to share. Problems and concerns in your service body. Suggestions for possible solutions.

**Length of Abstinence in Program Count**
THURSDAY, October 27, 2016
(07:00 – 09:00) Breakfast

09.00 – 10.30 ASSEMBLY SESSION 2

Questions Arising out of Reports:
Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee, Financial Statements, Trustee,
Committee Chairs: Literature & Translation, Electronic Communications, Bylaws,
Public Information, Twelfth Step Within

R9 Suggested Budget 2017-18: Presentation, Discussion
Collection of 7th Tradition

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:30 WORKSHOP 2 Fun with Motions (:45)

Motions Informal (1:00)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:00 ASSEMBLY SESSION 3

Consent Agenda

Bylaws Amendments

New business motions

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 18:30 Introducing our trial Service Work Structure
First Session:
Goal setting
Task Force groups

18:30 – 19:45 Dinner Break

19:45 – 21:00 WORKSHOP 3 ONLINES MEETINGS – HOW & WHY

21:00 – 22:30 WORKSHOP 4 TRANSLATIONS
FRIDAY, October 28, 2016
(07:00 – 09:00  Breakfast)

9:00  Deadline for submitting Emergency new business motions

09:00 – 10:45  ASSEMBLY SESSION 4

  **Election of Service Positions**
  R9 Secretary (2 year term)
  R9 Treasurer (2 year term)
  WSBC R9 Delegates
  (Possible additional officer elections)
  S/election of Coordinators
  **Approval of budget** (Any changes 2016-17; 2017-18)
  **Election of Assembly/Convention Venue** for – 2017 & 2018

10:45 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:30  Emergency NB (if any)
  Unfinished Business

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch Break

14:00-15:30  ASSEMBLY SESSION 5

  **Second Session:** Task Forces
  Finalising and ReportingTasks for 2016-17

15:30 – 15:45  Break

15:45 – 17:00  Wrap up session
  7th Tradition collected from Assembly
  Green Dot Ceremony
  Personal Sharing
  Closing
  Readings & Responsibility Pledge

17:00  ASSEMBLY CLOSES

**Responsibility Pledge** “Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion: for this I am responsible”.

17:05 – 18:45  Region 9 Board Meeting  (Location TBA)
Former Committee Chairs & Incoming Coordinators
Hand - over of service positions; then Officers orientation.
Ground Rules for Region Nine Assembly 2016

Each Representative, alternate, officer, and committee chair is to be registered by the Secretary and will be issued an identification badge to be worn at all meetings.

A Minutes Approval Committee consisting of an Officer and two (2) Representatives shall help with the minutes of the Region Nine Assembly.

Representatives from at least five countries constitute a quorum in accordance with Article VI of Region 9 Bylaws.

OA visitors are welcome at the Region Nine Assembly. Visitors from Region Nine who are already represented will not be given a voice or a vote. Suggestions from visitors may be written and handed to the Chair for consideration. Visitors must obtain prior permission from the Chair to speak during the assembly. Visitors may join workshops and service work sessions where they have a voice but no vote.

Robert’s Rules are the basic parliamentary guidelines that will be used for conducting the Assembly.

In assembly deliberations, we preserve the idea of OA group conscience decisions.

Discussion of main motions is limited to three (3) speakers for pro and three (3) speakers for con. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Discussion of debatable subsidiary motions is limited to two (2) speakers for pro and two (2) speakers for con. Each speaker is limited to two (2) minutes. Questions are limited to fifteen (15) minutes.

If a proposal gets stuck in discussion, or there is a need for clarification before making a decision, the Chair may ask to refer motion(s) to an Ad Hoc Reference committee. This Committee will discuss the proposal and bring back a recommendation at the time allotted. Any resultant amended proposals will be submitted to the Secretary prior to continued discussion and voting.

Only voting members of the Assembly may enter into debate on actual motions proposed at the Assembly, or make said motions. (Please see reference below for “Voting and Non Voting” members of Region 9.)
A consent agenda may be used for motions whereby no debate is entered. Any motion may be removed from the consent agenda by request to the Chair at the designated time during the assembly.

All motions not adopted in the Consent Agenda will be discussed and voted upon separately.

Votes will be by show of hand or voice unless a written ballot is requested. Bylaws amendments require a 2/3 majority and new business motions require a simple majority to be adopted.

No personal voice-recorders are to be used during business sessions of the Assembly, except by the Secretary.

Electronic devices are to be used for business purposes only. Cell phones etc. are to be off or in silent mode.

Business motions that are adopted will take effect from the end of the current Assembly unless otherwise specified.

Emergency New Business motions have to be submitted to the Chair in writing by 9:00 on Friday of the assembly.

FOR REFERENCE:

The voting membership of the Assembly is defined in Article IV of Region 9 Bylaws, Section 2 (I) as follows: a) Representatives from Intergroups who are registered with the World Service Office and who are within the geographical boundaries of Region Nine, b) Representatives from National/Language Service Boards who are registered with the World Service Office and who are within the geographical boundaries of Region Nine, National/Language Service Boards shall not represent Intergroups that have sent Representatives to the Assembly. However, if all Intergroups are represented, the National/Language Service Boards will still be entitled to one Representative, c) Region Nine Board Members, d) The Chair shall have no vote at the Assembly, except to break a tie and for elections, e) Committee Chairs, who are not Intergroup or National/Language Service Board Representatives. In the event of a Region Nine Representative from a registered unaffiliated group receiving a voice as per Article IV, Section 2 (II) c) of these Bylaws, they may also be given a vote, subject to majority approval of the voting body. See Article IV – Section 2 (I)

The non-voting membership of the Assembly is defined in Article IV of Region 9 Bylaws, Section 2 (II) as follows: a) The Region Nine Trustee is
entitled to a voice but no vote at the Assembly, b) Region Nine OA members who are not represented, are entitled to a voice but no vote at the Region 9 Assembly, c) A Representative from a registered unaffiliated group within Region Nine may be given a voice if they receive the majority approval of the voting body. Consideration may also be given to giving such a Representative a vote – see Article IV, Section 2 (I) f) of Region Nine Bylaws,
REGION 9 VITAL LINK:
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR DELEGATES ATTENDING
REGION 9 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Representative is a “vital link” in the chain of OA’s Service Structure – You have been elected by your Intergroup or Language/National Service Board to attend the Region 9 Assembly – Congratulations!

If you are lucky, your predecessor has briefed you on the job or given you a file with information in it. If not, you may need to find out a lot, very quickly. We hope this booklet helps you.

Here are some of the questions that experienced members in OA are frequently asked about Region 9 service matters. These answers may give you a clearer idea of what the role of a Delegate is in relation to the Region 9 assembly.

It must be emphasized that there are no “right answers”, only shared experience of what has worked well for others. All the suggested answers are to be found either in the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of OA, the Bylaws or the Policy Manual of Region 9. Other sources of information are Groups, Intergroups and National/Language Service Boards and previous year’s Region 9 minutes, which should be handed to you. When in doubt, don’t hesitate to ask the advice of more experienced OAs.

Glossary
OA Overeaters Anonymous
IG Intergroup
BOT Board of Trustees
WSBC World Service Business Conference (also known as the Conference)
NSB/LSB National/Language Service Board
R9 Region 9
WSO World Service Office
RCC Region Chairs Committee

REGION NINE’S STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Our statement of purpose reads: “Our primary purpose is to carry the OA message to the still suffering compulsive overeater, wherever they may live and whatever language they may speak. In fulfilling our purpose we should ever strive to achieve worldwide unity and common policies among all countries. With love and tolerance as our code, together we can do what we could never do alone”.

WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET?

Every year we hold an Assembly in which the officers of R9 meet with delegates from Intergroups and National/Language Service Boards from all over R9. Non-affiliated groups (groups which are not part of an Intergroup) may also be represented.

We meet within Region 9. Intergroups and National/Language Service boards who feel able to host the event put in a bid, with the selection usually taking place 1-2 years in advance.
WHY SHOULD MY INTERGROUP SEND A DELEGATE?

Because this is the only way to get your Intergroup or NSB/LSB’s views heard by the group conscience of Region 9 as a whole. If your delegate isn’t there you cannot contribute or change anything or indeed listen and take home to your IG or NSB/LSB news and views of what’s going on elsewhere. *Your absence weakens the group conscience.*

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO BE A DELEGATE?

Your local IG or NSB/LSB decides. Successful delegates are OAers who have previously had some active experience of service at group, Intergroup or NSB/LSB level and are familiar with the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts of OA Service and the OA Service structure. This service is not appropriate for a newcomer. Qualifications are set by the local IG or NSB/LSBs in their bylaws.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE DELEGATE?

In a word – communication. The delegate’s role is to make sure that their Intergroup understands Region 9 matters, and that the Assemblies which they attend are informed of the needs and wishes of their Intergroup or NSB/LSB. You should be aware that some service commitment may be required during the year after the Assembly. The delegate’s length of service depends on their own IG Bylaws. But it is suggested that some continuity is beneficial to both R9 and to the delegate her/himself as the first year is often a learning year. Should you wish to submit amendments to the Region 9 bylaws, please refer to Region 9 bylaws, Article XII, Section 1.

WHAT IS THE REGION ASSEMBLY COMPOSED OF?

The Assembly is composed of a Board and Intergroup and NSB/LSB delegates. The board members are elected at the Assembly for a period of 2 years and a further two year term if re-elected. The board members are: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, committees are formed (from the delegates present) and committee chairs are elected or nominated. The Region 9 Trustee attends the Assembly and has a voice but no vote. Visitors are welcome as observers.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY?

- To carry the OA message of recovery within Region 9
- To re-affirm OA unity within Region 9
- To report and discuss the different activities in the Region since the last Assembly
- To vote on bylaw changes, if any proposals are on the floor
- To elect new officers and Committee chairs (every two years)
- To serve as a place where delegates from throughout the Region can get together to share their common experiences, problems and solutions
- To receive input from the BOT through the Trustee and more information and news about the WSO
WHAT SERVICES DOES REGION 9 PROVIDE?

Through several committees that operate year round, R9 offers the following services to its members, NSB/LSBs, Intergroups and groups:

**Budget and Finance**
The treasurer heads this committee, whose function is to project expenditure for the upcoming year, produce a budget and promote contributions throughout the Region. Details of our expenses are listed further in this document.

**Bylaws**
The Assembly operates in accordance with bylaws that were first laid down in the second Assembly (Munich 1985). This committee evaluates the bylaws and proposes changes/additions to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Assembly and the Region as a whole and are in accordance with OA bylaws Subpart B.

**Translation**
This committee encourages countries to translate and print literature in their own language. Region 9 Translation guidelines are available on the website of R9. A hard copy can be ordered from the R9 secretary.

**Electronic Communications**
This committee is responsible for the maintenance of the R9 website. The website “www.oaregion9.org” will carry news and information to R9 members. The second phase will be to translate as much material as possible to languages other than English. The R9 Newsletter will be published on the website.

This committee will encourage countries to set up websites in different languages, to facilitate communications and to provide prompt information about OA in their own language.

HOW DOES THE REGION CO-ORDINATE WITH OTHER SERVICE BODIES?

**World Service Business Conference (WSBC)**
The WSBC (the Conference) is an annual meeting of delegates from NSB/LSBs and Intergroups worldwide, held in April/May in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. The conference lasts 4 days with discussions, debates and decisions relating to OA as a whole, and represents the Group Conscience of OA as a whole.

The WSBC discusses and provides guidelines for all aspects of OA group, Intergroup and NSB/LSB activities – literature, budget, group handbook, committee guidelines, public information etc. All literature that is approved at the WSBC carries the “conference seal of approval” which means that it represents the group conscience of OA as a whole.
The WSBC also supports a Delegate fund aimed at assisting NSB/LSB and Intergroups to attend WSBC. Contributions are received from service bodies throughout the fellowship and are distributed to NSB/LSB and Intergroups who apply for assistance. Details can be received from WSO.

**Board of Trustees**
The BOT is elected by the Conference comprising of Trustees from the different Regions and General Service Trustees. Candidates are put forward to the Conference by the Regions. The main functions of the BOT are to represent OA as a whole, to act as guardians of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Overeaters Anonymous and to promote education within the fellowship worldwide.

**Region 9 Trustee**
The WSBC elects a Trustee from Region 9 every 3 years. This Trustee is a member of the BOT. In addition to the Trustees duties as a member of the BOT, the Trustee carries the message of the BOT in the Region, by visiting and communicating with the NSB/LSB, Intergroups and groups within the Region and by holding service and traditions workshops in different locations in the Region. The Trustee attends BOT meetings, WSBC and WSO convention. The Trustee also attends the Region 9 Assembly as the representative of the BOT and has a voice but not a vote.

**World Service Office**
The WSO located in Albuquerque New Mexico, USA, provides a variety of services for the BOT, WSBC, Regions, National-/Language Service Boards, Intergroups and Groups, including:

- Clearing house for worldwide inquiries
- Providing information about OA to the still suffering compulsive overeaters, to media representatives and health professionals interested in OA’s Twelve-Step approach to recovery from compulsive overeating
- Supporting individual members and OA groups worldwide
- Registration of all OA groups, Intergroups and NSB/LSBs (available online)
- Providing everything new groups need to get started in the Group Starter Kit
- Providing office services to the BOT, WSBC and the World Service Convention, including printing and distribution of material
- Producing all the Conference and BOT approved literature
- Selling over 100 literature and recovery-related items which can be ordered from the Catalog
- Producing and printing *Lifeline* the monthly OA recovery magazine and mailing it to subscribers (available online)
- Producing and distributing of the quarterly newsletter *A Step Ahead*, and the annual *Courier* (newsletter for professionals) to all NSB/LSBs, Intergroups (available online)
- Website – maintaining the OA Website ([www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org) or [www.overeatersanonymous.org](http://www.overeatersanonymous.org))
Region 9 Chair

The R9 Chairman is elected by the R9 Assembly for a period of 2 years and fills a variety of duties; reelection for another two-year term is possible.

- Represents R9 at WSBC and is involved in different Conference Committees and activities
- Is invited with other Region Chairs to attend one BOT meeting per year
- Attends one additional Region Chairs Committee meeting held in conjunction with an assembly of one of the other regions
- Is a member of the WSBC’s Region Chairs Committee (RCC), working in cooperation with the Chairs of the other 9 regions, meeting and communicating about the services and needs of all the regions
- Chairs the annual R9 Assembly
- Attends different functions within the Region and may hold Service and Traditions workshops where budget allows.

HOW IS REGION 9 FUNDED?

Region 9 is self-supporting, receiving contributions from its member NSB/LSBs, Intergroups, groups and non-affiliated groups. The surplus from our conventions/assemblies is an important source of funding of activities.
WHAT ARE OUR EXPENSES?

Due to the vast geographic range of our Region, our expenses for travel and postage are much higher than other Regions and they are:

- Funding of R9 Officers to R9 Assemblies.
- Funding R9 Chairman to WSBC, partly funding to a BOT meeting, and funding the travel to a Region Chairs Committee meeting if funds are available.
- Printing of Assembly minutes, Notebook, reports, etc.
- Postage.
- Holding a representative fund, when possible, to subsidize NSB/LSB and Intergroup delegates to attend R9 Assembly.
- Assistance to IGs, NSB/LSBs for translation costs.
- Funding of elected delegates to WSBC in agreement with current approved budget.

WHAT AREA DOES REGION 9 COVER?

Region 9 is composed of OA groups and Intergroups and NSB/LSBs in Africa, Europe, Middle East and Western Asia.

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE ADDRESS

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Region 9
Website: http://www.region9oa.org/
Service Structure of OA in the Countries that make up Region 9

Groups Groups Groups Groups Groups

Intergroups Intergroups Intergroups Intergroups

National Service Board in Country “A”

Other National Service Boards in other Countries in Region 9

Region 9 Region 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&10

World Service Business Conference

World Service Office
Overall Service Structure

This chart shows the overall flow of service within the OA Fellowship. The most important point that I can make is that WE dictate policy, and OUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT. For example, WSO doesn’t tell us that we can’t distribute food plans at our meetings. Members of our meetings are sent to intergroup, and intergroup sends delegates to Region where perspectives can be heard from other members within in our region. Then, at the World Service Business Conference, the GROUP CONSCIENCE of the body as a whole decides that we have no right to distribute food plans because we are not professional nutritionists. OA is OUR PROGRAM, but it works only if you work it! If your meeting isn’t sending a delegate to intergroup, then your meeting does not have input into the process. We can give service at all levels, and service of all kinds is essential to our continuing recovery as a Fellowship. We would not exist if people were not willing to extend their hands. All of us can do some kind of service every day—let’s all try to incorporate service into our daily lives by using this valuable tool of recovery.