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Chair's Report to the 2016 Assembly

Thanks to OA The Netherlands for hosting the R9 Assembly and Convention this year. All of us in Region 9 are grateful for your efforts and valuable service.

OA Website & Region 9 Websites contain a wealth of information. Check them regularly for service and recovery matters. There are many downloads available for members and service bodies. The OA website was revised earlier this year.

Region 9 Announcements and Newsletters are mailed weekly and bi-monthly. Contact the R9 Secretary if you are not already on this list. R9 relies heavily on these weekly announcements to send out vital information to R9 members.

Meeting Information and Service Body information is so important for reaching everyone plus getting us all (newcomers especially) to recovery meetings. Please check regularly to see that your meetings and your service body information is correct on the WSO website. R9 also relies upon this same information to reach our service bodies.

Lifeline, our monthly recovery magazine, is available electronically now. Hard copy mailings to R9 members are costly and not self-supporting. OA continues to look at ways to improve Lifeline.

Board and Committee Chairs meetings were done electronically throughout the year. These help keep all officers on track with goals and commitments. We also have time for discussions of concerns or ideas. Skype meetings have worked well to allow us all to “see” and hear each other as we coordinate our efforts to carry the message in Region 9.

The Region 9 Board is small and all officers were new to their positions this year. We worked together to help each other learn our duties and responsibilities. A Region 9 Dropbox has been created where we are now storing and sharing all documents necessary to us as officers and for the region. We had some challenges this year but HP and recovery helped us through these.

Email communications allow me to keep in regular contact with the other R9 officers, R9 Trustee, the Board of Trustees, the World Service Office, Committee Chairs, other Region Chairs, and OA members and Service Bodies within Region 9. The volume is large but this continues to be an easy effective way to exchange information.

World Service Business Conference Chair's report was sent out. It was an honour to serve R9 there. The Spanish Language Service Board was formed there. R9 has an appointed representative serving us on that board until we elect someone at assembly.

Region Chairs Committee (RCC) is one of the duties of the Region 9 Chair. The first meetings took place at WSBC. The second meetings are being held this year at the World Service Convention. The third meeting this year is very close to our own assembly, so I will not be attending it this year.

In follow up to questions last year about other regions who have funds to help R9 (and other regions) for their chairs to go to the third RCC meeting: Some regions offer these funds with no conditions. Other regions require us to show a financial need.

The RCC this year has been completing a "Service Body Building" document with information for service bodies and their officers. I was responsible to write and edit parts of this. We hope the document will be approved this coming year. We region chairs all serve on committees to help the Trustees with the OA Strategic Operations planning. I'm helping with the "Sponsorship Training" subcommittee now.

Hosting the R9 Assembly and Convention is challenging, involves work and preparation, but is rewarding. If your service body is interested in hosting in the future, you will find the information for "how to" as an appendix to the P&P Manual. We will hear bids for upcoming years at this assembly. Anyone who is bidding, or who has hosted in the past, is also able to share about the experience.

Looking forward to the next year, I believe with better organization and simplifying necessary tasks of running the region board, we officers can then assist more in carry the message plus better serve those in R9 who are on the front lines of recovery.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve R9. I would also like to thank the R9 Secretary, Treasurer, Banker, Trustee, Newsletter Coordinator, and Committee Chairs for all their service efforts this year. It has been a pleasure to serve with you all. Your dedication and enthusiasm is inspiring.

Francene,
R9 Chair

Region 9 secretary's report for the 2016 Assembly

Dear Region 9 assembly,

This is my first Region 9 Assembly as the R9 secretary. I took over in February 2015 after our previous secretary had to step down. She has been doing a great job and it certainly was not easy to fill her shoes. I'm very grateful for the board and our trustee who have helped me to settle in properly.

Once I had my email up and running I started sending weekly notifications that consist of news from WSO, news from Service Bodies within R9 or other regions, updates from our committees and our trustee and other OA-related material. Our goal is not to flood you with emails but rather stick to one email on a weekly basis.

I have created a template for a R9 calendar which can be easily updated every year. It is my responsibility to keep track of important dates and notify the board in advance. Since our license for the OA-logotype had been expired, I applied for a new license (which we have received).

Once a month, the R9 board has a meeting via skype. Every other month, the committee chairs are invited as well. I initiate these calls and provide the minutes for every meeting. After the meetings with the committee chairs, I send the committee reports to our newsletter coordinator to include them in the upcoming newsletter.

One of my most important tasks is answering emails. I receive emails from all over the region; I either answer them or forward them to the committee/person that can help in the best way.

The Assembly 2016 is coming closer and I'm in the middle of preparing the binder. Since we have our archives in "dropbox", work that has been done in previous years is not lost and we don't have to reinvent the wheel all the time. I had to both update old documents and create new ones. Our goal was to make this year's binder somewhat shorter and easy to navigate through. We omitted certain documents that can be found on our website (e.g. the list of translated literature in R9).

It has been a true pleasure to serve as your secretary.

Love in Service

Isabella

R9 Secretary

secretary@oaregion9.org

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR ASSEMBLY THE NETHERLANDS 26-30th OCTOBER 2016

I would like to start by saying a very big THANK YOU;

- To all of you for giving me this wonderful opportunity to do service for Region 9
- To our Trustee and the officers of the board for their help, guidance, and amazing patience, as I took up the challenge of being Region treasurer. (I have absolutely no doubt that their patience with me has been truly tested-many many times!!).
- And a very big THANK YOU to Sandra (The Banker), who has been an enormous help, and has definitely made this job a lot easier.

This year we have been able to offer Financial Assistance for attendance here at this Assembly to 3 Intergroups:

Gauteng Intergroup (South Africa) looked for and received € 1323.32
Caledonia Intergroup (Scotland) looked for and received € 350.00
Portugal's Representative looked for and received € 787.00

It is great to be able to give Intergroup's the amount that they request, and this year we were able to do that and stay within the amount for this fund in the budget.

I do have to say that this has been a challenging year, but as I am becoming more familiar with procedures, and becoming a little more "TECHY" (Learning more about technology-Laptops, computers, "Open Office"), things are becoming a lot easier.

The first challenge I had, was the problem that the laptop I brought home from the Assembly in Paris did not work properly for the job in hand.

After getting 3 quotes for work required to upgrade/ or install what would be needed,-which were not cheap, and offered no decent guarantees, it was decided to purchase a new laptop for Region 9. This was done in February/-March and is now being used by me, for the treasurer's work.

Please pass on Region 9's THANK YOU to all your meetings, intergroup's. service bodies, and national service boards for your contributions. All of your financial support helps us to continue carrying the message of OA within Region 9, and also to forward some money on to WSO.

A LITTLE REMINDER HERE;

-Please remind your meetings, groups, service bodies, etc., to e-mail both The Treasurer, and The Banker when you are making a donation, and please put the name of your group, Intergroup etc., on the E-mail.Both Sandra and I had a lot of detective work to do in the past year to find out from what groups some of the money was coming from. (I wonder if we could become qualified detectives at this stage!!).

I now wish to apologise sincerely to you and your groups, for the long delay in getting receipts out to you in a timely fashion.

Thank you very much for your patience with this.

The delay was caused by a couple of things;

- Firstly the lack of a working computer for some months,
- The Handover process for the banker and I took a lot longer than anticipated.

We are hoping to move towards on-line banking which will make things a lot easier in the future. We have made a lot of enquiries, there are a few stumbling blocks, and at the moment we have not found a bank that can suit our needs.

The same was the case when we started enquiries about opening a PAYPAL ACCOUNT, again many stumbling blocks, which we hope can be sorted. We are continuing with our efforts to get these two things

sorted.

I conclude by saying once again what a pleasure and privilege it has been to be able to serve Region 9 as Treasurer. Yes! it has been a challenge, -But as I am now becoming familiar with practices, and things that need to be done the challenge is getting smaller.
Thank you to all of you.

"TOGETHER WE CAN DO WHAT WE COULD NEVER DO ALONE".

Report to the R9 Assembly 2016 from R9 Trustee

Trustee duties as R9 Trustee

- I have now settled in as R9 Trustee. Whilst I am much more comfortable in the role I am still learning and feel that I will probably think like that throughout the service. Grateful thanks must go to everyone on the Board of Trustees and our own R9 Board for their service. We form and make great teams in our various committees. The role and objectives of the Trustees includes:-
 - Guardians of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions & Twelve Concepts of Service.
 - Represent the Board of Trustees (BOT) with R9 and liaison between the BOT & R9.
 - Attendance to SB assemblies and conventions.
 - Participation and facilitate workshops.
 - Assistance with service structures.
 - Liaise and advise in Conference (WSBC) & BOT Committees.
 - Answer correspondence to OA WSO.

It includes lots of emails and report writing on the above and of course working on my own program while I perform the duties to the best of my ability.

- Since the last time I reported to you I have:-
 - a) Attended various countries and service bodies assemblies and conventions to conduct workshops (please see below). We have as I write this report 897 meetings across 53 countries and conducted in 32 languages. Please see the table at the end of this report for an analysis I did recently from the meetings listings. Please try to check that your meeting details are listed correctly on the OA.Org website.
 - b) Answered questions about the steps, service & traditions etc. that have arisen in our region via email.
 - c) Answered questions from other trustees as they have arisen.
 - d) Attended the Board of Trustees meetings in the USA (November, February, May & Aug). (please see below).
 - e) Attended the R9 Board & committee chair meetings via skype.
 - f) Served as trustee co - chair of the Board of Trustees 'International Publications / Translations Committee' (please see below) (BOT – IP/T Committee) (May 2015 to date).
 - g) Served as trustee co – chair of the 'Unity with Diversity Committee' up to the World Service Business Conference this year (please see below) (UWD Committee) (May 2015 – April 2016).
 - h) Reviewed Bylaws / Statement of Purpose for some service bodies within R9. There is a newly registered Intergroup: - AY Thessaloniki – Greece (9644) and there were some revisions for other service bodies.
 - i) Summarized the Accounts of OA. Inc. to 31 December 2015 and prepared a report to the region entitled 'Overeaters Anonymous R9 & how we fit into the World Service Office (WSO) Accounts'. This went out to the region at the end of April this year.

The report showed (all figures are for the Year Ended 31 December 2015):-

The overall net costs of OA Inc. (WSO) was \$955,078.

Our income to cover those costs comes from Contributions, OA Literature &

Misc. Income. Our overall contributions (in the world) covers approx. 50% of the total costs.

In total all the contributions (from all regions) to OA Inc. (WSO) amounted to \$502,584.

That works out on average from the 6432 groups worldwide at \$78 for the year i.e. \$1.50 per week.

These figures are an average across all groups, although we know that every group is not the same.

The 891 groups in R9 contributed \$6827 in total to WSO. That works out at \$7.66 per group for the year i.e. \$0.15 (15 cents).

The budget for OA Inc. pays for our World Service Office which supports our fellowship throughout the world. This includes:-

Maintenance of the WSO website, the WSBC, the Trustee's budgets, holding of OA literature stocks, the various committee budgets, staff salaries, production of 'lifeline' & 'a step ahead', maintenance of the office building, to name but a few.

Our 7th Tradition is:-

'Every OA group ought to be fully self – supporting, declining outside contributions'.

The principle behind this tradition is 'Responsibility'.

There is a new 7th Tradition tent card from the WSO

<https://oa.org/files/pdf/SeventhTraditionTableCard.pdf> which conveys the comparison of the cost of a person's last binge with abstinence and R9 has a tent card which shows the average costs as given above as well as those of R9 and has space for your groups to enter their own weekly costs.

Your groups may find these useful items in informing members about the costs for your group each week and encouraging the group to be fully self - supporting.

- j) Worked with the R9 Board on a flyer and a tent card regarding the 7th tradition contributions which went out to the region. Also worked with the R9 Chair on information regarding the service structure within R9 and how R9 SBs contribute to the various levels of service, in particular where there are four levels beyond the groups (i.e. IG, NSB / LSB, R9 & WS).
- k) Used the translation software to produce workshop material etc. in draft form and then worked with local members to correct the 'machine' produced text. This has been done so that workshops and PowerPoint presentations can be done in the local language. So far feedback is mixed but airs on the side of positive and much better than starting from a blank page. The next stage is to try to use a glossary translated into the various languages to improve the output. Please see below for details from the IP/T Committee. Such software will never take the place of good linguists with a working knowledge and understanding of our program, but it could be a very useful tool and a much better starting point than a blank page. In theory, if we can 'educate' the software with translation of OA words, expressions and nuances then there is no reason why each service body cannot be provided with draft translations of most of our literature and documents which will need review and validation locally before they can be published. Even if the draft translation (which takes seconds) is only 80% correct, it will be a huge starting point for service bodies and a really useful tool for translation of OA literature & materials.

Board of Trustee Meetings

I meet with the other 16 trustees four times per year. During those meetings we:-

- Report on activities in our regions and committees so that we can all learn what works in other areas.
- Work in our respective committees.
- Meet together as a service body and vote on various motions that affect OA as a whole (e.g. proposed literature such as the Step Study voted on at the WSBC & BOT approved literature such as OA Meeting Formats).
- Meet informally to discuss matters arising that we feel we would benefit from input from other trustees but there is not a need for formal motions (e.g. Lifeline promotion).
- We are constantly considering the most efficient way to utilize time and money.

Board of Trustees (BOT) International Publications & Translations (IP/T) Committee

The objectives of this committee are:-

To oversee the translation, reprinting & publication of OA literature outside USA, to review policies & procedures pertaining to publication and to help those who translate OA literature to achieve accurate translations and acceptable publications.

The trustees for Regions 8, 9 & 10 all sit on this committee and we are often joined and receive input from trustees in Region 2 (some Spanish meetings) and Region 6 (some French meetings). The work of this committee is very much involved & linked with our region. This will be my second year to serve as chair on the IP/T committee.

During this year we have: -

- Discussed and agreed expenditure from the committee budget to assistance with translation and publication.
- Received & circulated information about translation from the fellowship.
- Tracked and reviewed royalties paid to WSO.
- Reviewed and added to the Glossary of OA Words & Terms (supplied to us by the R9 Translation & Literature Committee – grateful thanks for all their hard work on this). As I write this report, this is in its final stages before being placed on the OA.Org website. The glossary will be updated periodically. I will update you at the assembly.
- Reviewed and added to the ‘Translated OA Literature & Materials listings’ (original documents were held by R9, the WSO and throughout the fellowship in various SBs. These have been combined with work again carried out by the R9 Literature & Translations committee (again many thanks for all the hard work)). These definitive listings show the status of translation of all OA Literature & Materials in all languages where we have an OA presence. As I write this report, the lists are being reviewed by the BOT approvals committee with a view that they be placed on the OA.Org website. The listings will be updated periodically. I will update you at the assembly.
- Considered a Summary / brief overview of the OA Translations Guidelines (Board Approved Literature). This document is current WIP and the IP/T committee will be working on it further in the next few months.

World Service Business Conference (WSBC) Unity with Diversity (UWD) Committee

The purpose of this committee is to work at recognizing the significance that acceptance of diversity plays in our ability to effectively carry the message of recovery. The committee encourages awareness within and outside the Fellowship of the importance of unity while honoring and respecting diversity.

It is made up of members across the regions attending the WSBC and is co-chaired by a trustee and a delegate. I served as Trustee Co – Chair with Viviana from R8 serving as

Delegate Co – Chair from WSBC 2015 – WSBC 2016. Members join the committee at WSBC and then serve for the following year and communicate during the year via skype or telephone etc.

During this year the committee: -

- Created a UWD tri fold document to use at 2016 WSBC within the UWD Committee showing the OA UWD policy statements. The members discussed the leaflet during their meeting at WSBC and are working on it further in order to bring it to the full fellowship.
- Created a workshop (PowerPoint presentation) on how we can welcome people with diverse attributes. Again the members discussed this during their meeting at WSBC are working on it further in order to bring to the full fellowship.
- Created a letter to go to the region chairs & service boards, “Suggestions for how regions can welcome diversity within our Fellowship and the way we work our program,” .
- Began work on a workshop which encompasses Tradition 3 and the various policies adopted by OA regarding respecting Unity with Diversity.
- Worked on a questionnaire for intergroups asking for the demographics of the intergroup.

The new Co – Chairs are: - Trustee Co – Chair Letitia from R10 and Delegate Co – Chair Miranda from R9 and they will serve from WSBC 2016 – WSBC 2017.

Trustee Workshops & using the trustee

Part of the role of R9 trustee is to facilitate workshops around the region.

These can be on any topic that includes:-

- a) Service, Traditions & Concepts as well as the topics covered on the strategic plan i.e.
- b) Abstinence,
- c) Working all Twelve Steps &
- d) Individual’s responsibility of Carrying the OA message of recovery.

It’s up to your service body to ‘use’ the trustee as much as possible and as the budget allows. Together we recover.

Please ask your Intergroup / Service Board to consider whether you would like a visit and can arrange a workshop with one or more of these topics. Personally, I think it’s good to do a combination of the Service, Traditions & Concepts with a ‘recovery’ topics from the other three listed.

Also if you can accommodate a workshop within a given time period – what would that be? Which month? Which days of the week work best for you?

The trustee is a person that has served OA in a variety of service positions before becoming Trustee. They also have all the other 16 trustees to call upon from a different perspective of experience. We all like to be as useful as possible to the local service bodies in our regions in how they organize their structure etc. In that regard if you want me to attend as a trustee I am happy to assist during that visit in whatever way your service body wants. Therefore, if it is relevant, it is useful to have your assembly material (bylaws, motions etc.) ahead of time. I can use the software I have to translate them from your language into English and as long as you send them me (in ‘word’ preferably) I can have some appreciation before the visit.

You can contact me direct on the trustee email address.

Trustee Visits:-

Since I last reported to you I have visited the following service bodies: -

- Spanish National Assembly 16th – 18th Oct in Barcelona. Overall theme: - ‘Como me sirve servir’ – in English - "How it serves me to serve". As R9 trustee I was asked to

speak and facilitate a workshop entitled – ‘The Concepts of Service applied to my life’. I also reviewed the 7th tradition and the connection of how R9 fits into the WSO / OA Inc. budget. The report on the OA Inc. accounts was translated into Spanish and posted on the wall for members to review in their own time.

- Greek National Convention 27th – 29th Nov in Thessaloniki. Overall theme: - ‘Living the solution. Together’. As R9 trustee I facilitated workshops on:- a) Abstinence. How did I start abstinence and stay abstinent? b) The solution of sponsorship. How do I act as a sponsee and as a sponsor? c) The solution of giving: How do I live the personal pledge for the survival of OA? How do I live according to Step Twelve? A presentation on the OA Concepts was given and the members built a ‘Vision for OA Service in Greece’. The report on the OA Inc. accounts was translated into Greek and posted on the wall for members to review in their own time.
- Spanish National Assembly & Convention 22 – 24th April 2016. The theme was ‘Surrender to Serenity’. I facilitated workshops on a) Creation & Maintaining Strong Groups and b) The Third Tradition.
- Norwegian National Convention 4 – 5th June. The theme was ‘Willingness to Recover’. As trustee I a) told my story and answered questions b) facilitated a workshop on the Concepts and the local members built a ‘Vision for OA Service in Norway’ and c) submitted a share on Step 6 & 7 for a workshop on that topic.
- Russian Forum 24th – 26th June. The Theme was ‘One day at a time’. As trustee I facilitated workshops on a) Abstinence and an Action Plan and b) The Importance of Working the Steps.
- For the various workshops in languages other than English, I try wherever possible to have the materials made available in the local language. It’s useful to utilize existing translations where possible (e.g. Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions book, Overeaters Anonymous 3rd Edition book, Strong Meetings Checklist & UWD Checklist etc.) and use the translation software I have been allocated as R9 trustee & then ask local members to correct the draft workshop materials produced by the software. Without the service of local members who speak English and their own language, carrying the message would be very difficult if not well-nigh impossible. Local members at the sessions and workshops are always very appreciative and I can see that they are visibly more engaged when using material that is produced in the local language (rather than just me speaking with a verbal translation). Grateful thanks to all those members that serve to translate our literature and materials.

Translations Workshop at the R9 Assembly.

There will be a translations workshop at the forthcoming R9 Assembly. The Chair of the R9 Translations & Literature Committee and myself will work on this between now and the assembly. We hope to have a presentation on the R9 website before the assembly. We will let you know as soon as it is available for viewing. I would be very grateful if you would:-

- Consider which pieces of OA Literature & the downloadable documents from the OA.Org website that have been most important in your recovery. This is especially important for members that have read and have a working knowledge of most of our literature and materials.
- Bring a complete list of OA literature & materials that has been translated into your language, to the assembly and send me that list electronically.
- Wherever possible when you refer to our OA literature and materials (e.g. on your literature order forms) please use the reference numbers. This includes those for the OA Literature and for the OA Materials downloadable from the website (these are

new and will be included on the translations listings). This is useful in considering which items have been translated.

OA Region 9 Recovery Activities & Events (Workshops and conventions etc.)

Please let me know what is happening in the OA world in your area. Things like OA workshops, step studies, PI events etc. are all good to share with the outside of OA R9 fellowship. Please ask your service body to register the trustees email address and to update me with details of these events from time to time.

OA Inc. World Service Office Literature Stock room.



OA meetings are held in Region 9 in the following languages

(Extracted from the meetings lists on the OA.Org website):-

No R9 Meetings	English	Afrikaans	Arabic	Croatian	Danish	Dutch	Estonian	Farsi	Finnish	French	German	Greek	Hebrew	Hindi	Hungarian	Italian	Icelandic
July 2016 897	320	2	7		14	22	1		8	45	118	40	70	1	1	70	7
January 2016 883	317	2	6	1	15	21	1	2	8	44	116	43	76		1	69	7

Latvian	Lithuanian	Luxembourgish	Norwegian	Maltese	Persian	Polish	Portuguese	Russian	Rumanian	Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swahili	Swedish	Turkish	Ukrainian
1	1	2	3	1	2	40	4	20	2	1	5	68	4	14	1	2
1	1	2	3	1	2	39	4	20	1	1	4	55	1	15	1	2

I look forward very much to continuing with the role of R9 Trustee and hopefully doing my part in carrying the OA message of recovery. I very much appreciate this service position. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Stella Cooke
OA Region 9 Trustee
trustee@oaregion9.org

Literature and Translation Committee Report, R9 Assembly 2016

At last year's Region 9 Assembly in Paris the literature and translations committee decided to work on three projects:

1. Master glossary in English: in the past year this has been expanded from about 100 words and phrases to over 500. Service bodies can translate the glossary as a priority and use it in their future translation efforts. It is hoped that the master glossary in English will be uploaded on oa.org. Next stage on this project is to pilot inputting this glossary (as translated) into Babylon, an automatic translation software, in the hope of improving the automatic translation results.
2. Translations spreadsheet: this shows the books, pamphlets and other OA materials and the languages into which each one has been translated. In the past year the spreadsheet was updated. It is hoped that it will be uploaded on oa.org.
3. Translation guidelines: the R9 and WSO guidelines were compared and suggestions made to update and improve them.

In addition to the above projects the committee also dealt with the following smaller projects over the past year:

- Research into languages that would benefit from translation of the Handbook for members, groups and service bodies; applied to the WSO to translate the Handbook into Russian and Arabic; translation into Russian completed with WSO funding; Arabic was not pursued due to high cost.
- Helped service bodies in Italy, Belgium, Poland and Greece translate/format the R9 PI leaflet 'do you eat compulsively?'
- Arranged for automatic translation of the script of the video 'breaking out of relapse' into Italian, Russian, Polish and Greek.
- Helped South Africa print the 12+12 locally and obtain the relevant licenses.
- Helped prepare the translations workshop for the 2016 R9 Assembly.
- Made suggestions on priorities for translation.

The committee started off with 4 members and the chair, however, the above tasks were completed by the chair with help from other volunteers from R9 at large. Thank you to the members from Israel, Greece and the UK for their service, as well as to our trustee Stella for her guidance and support throughout the year.

As ever, I feel privileged to serve Region 9 and hope to continue doing so over the coming year.

Miranda Karali, Greece
Literature and Translations Committee Chair

Electronic Communication Committee Report

Region 9 Assembly 2016

Website <http://www.oaregion9.org/>

Plugins

Updating, erasing, testing, installing, etc.

Website

Updating map of Region 9 websites countries

Safety

Monitoring constant hacks on the website

Emails and lists

Generic emails

After each Assembly, the generic emails has to be changed : banker@oaregion9.org, bylaws@oaregion9.org, chair@oaregion9.org, newsletter@oaregion9.org, Parliamentarian@oaregion9.org, pi@oaregion9.org, secretary@oaregion9.org, translations@oaregion9.org, treasurer@oaregion9.org, trustee@oaregion9.org, tsw@oaregion9.org, webmaster@oaregion9.org.

Managing lists

Updating, checking, parametrizing, changing : board, allservices, cmtechair, R9Communications, ECC.

Preparing motions for 2016 Assembly

Making tutorials

ECC proposals

In a Trello table ECC proposals are treated.

Let's appear the birthday of each country : the day of the birthday and on the events page : too few countries know this information.

Every day, a sentence "for today" : OA doesn't allow.

Approach other committees to find out their digital/web needs to see how we can help them made : having few proposals.

Review policy and procedures for managing website process (including generic emails) : done.

Main, horizontal menu : change the order of items, the most important first : done.

Serenity prayer in different languages (written and spoken) : done for about 20 languages.

Encourage using R9 website : done but should be better !

Bylaws Committee Report to the Region 9 Assembly 2016

Jobs completed by the Bylaws Committee since 2015 Assembly in Paris:

- 1) The Bylaws and Policies & Procedures were amended and checked by the Bylaws Committee. The updated versions were send out to all the representatives.
- 2) A letter has been written by the Bylaws Committee Chair to all Region 9 Service Bodies with a summary of the changes that have been made to the Bylaws and P&P and how it affects these documents.
- 3) The Bylaws Committee, Region 9 Chair and Parliamentarian have started a new project this year. Our Policies & Procedures will be revised and edited. This is an ongoing project since our P&P and Bylaws are in need of clarification. The update will make the documents much more user friendly.
- 4) The Bylaws Committee Chair and Region 9 Chair worked on the New Business Motions and Bylaw Amendments from Region 9 service bodies/committees to go into the binder. Prepared the consent agenda and the ones that will be voted on separately during the Assembly in the Netherlands.
- 5) Been of assistance through e-mail to Region 9 members.

Thank you all for your service.

Meike

Bylaws Committee Chair

Region 9 Public Information (PI) Committee

End of year report - 2015/16

Chair - David S, Israel

Committee members - Gisli J (Iceland), Ewa (Poland), Travice R (South Africa), Magdi G (Egypt), Francene (UK), Caroline M (UK).

At R9 Assembly in France in 2015, the committee set forth its goals of creating 2 new documents.

1. Anonymity Guidelines in Facebook and Social Media.

After discussing this document for a short while within the committee, it became known to us that the OA Board Approved Literature (BAL) committee were working on a similar document. So we basically stopped working on this project, and I'm not sure of its status with the BAL.

2. Google Adwords Instructions

After some hard work, we managed to produce a fantastic guide for service bodies, to assist them in creating their own Google Adwords campaign, if they want to. This document has been forwarded to all reps in Region 9, and to other OA members working on PI, via the OA PI email group formed by the WSBC PI Committee. As with all things technological and based on the internet, this document will always be in danger of becoming outdated very quickly. It's important that someone takes a look at this document again next year to check it's accuracy. Special thanks to Gisli for preparing the first draft of this document, including all the screen-shots, and to Francene and Caroline for help with proof-reading/editing.

Thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to serve as the Chair of this committee this year, and for being a member of the committee the previous year.

Report prepared by David S. 28 July, 2016

Region 9 Assembly 2016
Twelfth Step Within Committee Chair report
Sub-committee updates

Virtual Sponsor List (Reva and Helen)

During this past year our committee has worked to update the Virtual Sponsors List, checking if those on the list are still available to sponsor updating the contact information and also adding quite a number of new available sponsors.

Whenever a request comes to us we forward a copy of the list to those who are looking for a sponsor within Region 9

It is such a good feeling to see our list grow and to be able to be a conduit for sponsors and sponsees to team up and work the program together.

Thank you for the opportunity to give service in this way,

Reva & Helen

OA Region 9 Twelfth Step Within

Virtual Sponsor List sub-committee

Virtual Speaker List (Allison)

We have received no requests for the Virtual Speaker list. We have circulated announcements and reminders in the Region 9 newsletter, and by direct communication from the Region 9 Secretary on behalf of the committee. A reminder about the Virtual Speaker list is also included in the information sent to absentee countries as part of the absentee country outreach project.

Absentee Country Outreach (Soraya and Suzan)

The following information doesn't comprise all of the response data from this year's project. It is based on the information reported back by the sub-committee so far, and the information gathered by the chair throughout the year. Please do get in touch if you have any further information about your outreach efforts, or if you'd like any more information about this project.

36 Countries assigned at 2015 Assembly

18 Countries had confirmation from a rep that contact was attempted:

- Bahrain
- Congo
- Estonia
- Finland
- Gibraltar
- India
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Northern Ireland
- Turkey
- Portugal
- Ukraine
- Poland

11 Countries where rep responded about a message from their assigned country:

- Estonia
- Finland
- India
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Portugal
- Turkey
- Poland
- Northern Ireland

6 Assigned countries where no response from rep as to whether country responded:

- Belgium
- Gibraltar
- Iran
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta

5 Countries had no attempted contact:

- Zimbabwe
- Channel Islands
- Cyprus
- Bosnia & Herzegovia
- Czech Republic.

4 Countries not listed made contact with Region 9 throughout the year (or referred on from WSO):

- Iran
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Dubai
- Romania

7 Countries who responded successfully and have confirmed there are OA meetings in their country

The outreach efforts and the collating of the results continues...

Workshops

Since the last assembly, the committee has received information relating to two events, with a view to the information being shared on the Region 9 website. The members who provided the information were asked to resubmit using the "Ideas that work" form, but unfortunately the details were not resubmitted in this format.

The committee has recently discussed how we would like to deal with this particular project going forward. There are no members on this sub-committee, and all the TSW committee members have discussed how best to approach the matter.

It was agreed that we think this is important service and we would like to continue facilitating members across Region 9 sharing information about the successful running of OA events. However, it was agreed that we should no longer require groups/service bodies to submit this information in a particular format. Going forward, submissions for the website will be considered on a case by case basis, by the TSW committee and the Region 9 board.

Important Dates (Catherine)

Announcements have been circulated for the following important dates:

- IDEA day (21 November 2015)
- TSW day (12 December 2016)
- OA Birthday (16 January 2016)
- Unity day (25 February 2016)

There will be an announcement forthcoming for:

- Region 9 week (first week of September)

Announcements were included in the Region 9 Newsletter, or sent by direct communication by the Region 9 Secretary on behalf of the TSW committee.

TSW Chair's update

Since the 2015 Assembly, the TSW committee has kept in contact, mostly by e-mail, but we have also had several Skype calls. In my opinion this has helped us function as a committee throughout the year. I have been inspired and humbled by the efforts that TSW committee members have put into their service throughout the year, alongside their other OA service work and life commitments. I am grateful to have been able to serve on this committee, which I believe plays a significant role in carrying the message to compulsive eaters across Region 9. Thank you for this opportunity.

In fellowship

Holly

Report from R9 Chair on Region Chairs Committee (RCC) Meetings

The Region Chairs Committee (RCC) met for our 2nd set of meetings of the year in Boston before the OA World Service Convention.

The primary purpose of this second meeting is to work with the Board of Trustees (BOT) on OA's Strategic Operations Plan (SOP) for the coming years.

The Region Chairs (9 attended) and the Board of Trustees (10 Regional Trustees, 5 General Service Trustees, and the Virtual Services Trustee) brainstormed ideas for tasks around the 2017 goal of "Keeping OA Strong Worldwide: Growing Unity." These ideas will be finalised when the BOT meets in November.

Additionally the RCC discussed the following:

- Workshops and disclaimers for speakers
- Items for the newly formed Spanish Language Service Board (SLSB)
- Dissemination of information from WSO
- The 2017 Forum (RCC facilitate this)
- The Service Body Building (SBB) document RCC is producing for review by the BOT
- Sharing information between regions via RCC
- The "Carrying the Message" forum workshop being readied to be put online to share
- The TSW WSBC speakers listing will now be maintained on an individual basis region by region with regions determining their own need
- Continuation of RC's with Green Dot Mentor Program for WSBC
- Clarifying the purpose of the 3rd RCC meeting
- Continued sharing of resources and communicating

After discussions with the R9 Board and my service sponsor,

and prayer, I elected to not attend the 3rd RCC meeting held Oct 13-16th in Ellicott City, MD, USA. Part of the reason for this was being so close to our own assembly. Also I felt it would not serve the region well. Currently the purpose of this meeting is to observe another assembly, and I have conducted many assemblies as Chair (former position before moving to R9) and also had the chance to observe assemblies in other regions previously.

The Region Chairs Committee is currently discussing the purpose of this 3rd meeting. I've proposed that we consider carefully the finances of each region and whether or not it serves our fellowship as a whole to send all the region chairs to observe another assembly each year. Possible this could be done electronically at times. In addition to observing the assembly, the Region Chairs have the opportunity to share their experience, strength, and hope with the region at their convention. Each Region decides whether or not their Chair participates in this meeting that is held in one of the other 9 regions on a rotating basis. Currently we also visit Regions 9 and 10 once every 10 years alternating. We are also discussing incorporating how to visit the other countries in Region 8.

In follow up to questions asked at our 2015 Assembly I have clarified that some of the other regions offer financial assistance to Region 9 for our Chair to attend this 3rd meeting. (Some offer this to R10 also; and some to any Chair who may need assistance.) Most of these regions offer this on a "financial need" basis but one of the regions offers it without regard to financial need.

I have received the "minutes" of the RCC meeting held on Friday Oct 14th and the points covered follow:

- Continued work on the 2017 WSBC Forum (Growing OA Unity Worldwide)
- RCC collecting ESH from Service Body officers to share
- The Service Body Building Manual (SBB) has been updated and sent to the BOT for review. (This is a manual for all service officers at all levels to use as reference.)

- More discussion clarifying the purpose and expectations around the RCC 3rd meeting. A proposal to be made at a later date.
- The Region Chairs individually will participate in the various subcommittees around the tasks suggested for the 2017 Strategic Operations Plan
- The RCC is working more on the “Disclaimer Statement” for speakers at OA event. This will be incorporated into the “Events Guidelines” document.
- Discussed several topics for communication and resource sharing. (Chairing assemblies; helping struggling IG’s; roles and interaction of Trustees with Chairs and Regions; region strengths and struggles.)

In addition to working on some of the specific projects above, and the SOP subcommittees, I have duties as the RCC Vice Chair. We also meet via Skype between now and our next meeting at WSBC 2017.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or want more information or discussion on any of the items in this report on these meetings of the Region Chairs Committee.

Thanks,

Francene
R9 Chair