

# **Region 9 Assembly, November 1-3, 2017**

**Reykjavík, Iceland**

## **Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

### **ASSEMBLY SESSION 1**

**Readings:** Twelve steps, Twelve traditions, Twelve concepts of OA service, R9 Moto, Statement of Purpose, Unity with diversity statement, Responsibility pledge, Statement of abstinence and recovery.

#### **Getting Started**

Introductions: the board introduced themselves

Welcome

[Present] Regula (Switzerland), Margaret (Spirit of Hope, Ireland), Patricia (Heart of England IG, UK), Laerke (Denmark), Ewa (Poland), Ana (West of England IG, UK), Angelika (Greece), Alexandra (North West IG, UK), Olafia (Iceland), Lisa (Gauteng IG South Africa), Ester (Israel NSB), Jutta (Austrian NSB), Sandra (Great Britain NSB), Elaine (South Coast IG, UK), Hilde (Dutch IG/NSB), Ine (Sweden NSB), Donna (Caledonian IG, UK), Caroline (South East England IG, UK) David (Treasurer), Emma (Secretary), Francene (Chair), Bob (Parliamentarian), Stella (Trustee).

Thank yous,

Green Dots (12 green dots)

#### **Credentials Report**

Total number of voting members present: 20 (reps: 18, board members: 2)

14 countries represented:

Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Israel, Austria, Iceland, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Greece, Iceland

Quorum constituted; 5 countries represented.

Secretary moved the credentials report is accepted as presented. Seconded

Credentials Report accepted and adopted as presented.

## **Business Basics**

### Assembly Overview & Process

Francene explained the use of the binder, the elections procedure and the agenda for the Assembly

### Parliamentary Procedure

Bob outlined the meaning of Roberts Rules, unanimous consent and editorial changes.

### Agenda Approval

This was approved by unanimous consent

### Adoption of Ground Rules

This was approved by unanimous consent

### Approval of the 2016 Assembly Minutes

This was approved by unanimous consent (no amendments)

### Appointment of the Minutes Approval Committee

Alexandra, Hilde and Angeliki were appointed to join the minutes approval committee

### Timekeeper & Timing

Laerke was appointed as timekeeper

### Getting to Know Each Other

10 minutes 'speed dating' round the room to speak to other members

## ASSEMBLY SESSION 2

### Questions Arising out of Reports:

Chair,

Secretary,

Treasurer,

General Officer, Holly not present at the Assembly

Trustee,

Task Force Coordinators, Ewa presented a short report: her tasks included translation that translations workshop – this has been done in Polish, Spanish and Greek. The task on twinning countries in R9 will go forward to the Committees.

### R9 Budget Workshop

#### Presentation of prudent reserve

David presented the options for the prudent reserve and an informal discussion was held about which of the various options provided. Informal votes were taken to give an indications of preference for prudent reserve. Option 2 was carried, which includes Operating Expenses, Translation fund and Special Project fund. A formal vote will be taken on this issue tomorrow.

*Session closed with serenity prayer in Icelandic and English*

## **THURSDAY, November 2, 2017**

### **ASSEMBLY SESSION 3**

Ana read Voices of Recovery

The session opened with serenity prayer in Swedish and English

#### **Informal Motions Discussion with Q&A**

The Committee who worked on the policies and procedures document throughout the year and have brought some amendments to the document. Forty four pages of amendments were brought by Lisa.

#### **Questions on Proposed Amendments**

- Ana questioned the statement ‘to carry the message of recovery in Region 9’ (section 4.1).
- Francene clarified that this applied to OA Region 9 Committees specifically.
- Line 308 – proposed changes to the procedure outlined in 309-314
- Caroline queried who had proposed these changes; the task force had not proposed any changes, but David had brought some amendments in column D.
- Ewa asked in this amendment allowed an application for nominations to WSBC during the Assembly. Lisa confirmed that this was the case.
- Ana asked for clarification about what was in each column.
- Section 7.0 Misc. Policies - Ana suggested that using the word ‘should’ in line 281 “the treasurer should” – she is concerned that the word should invokes a moral issue. David sees this as wording that describes the role. He suggested that alternatively language could be negotiated.
- Elaine raised that she would remove the word ‘should’.
- Francene will consider this under unanimous consent; if no one objects to this, it can be adopted.
- Alexandra asked for the rationale for moving away from the suggestion that a group make a contribution to WSO that is 1/3 of its contribution to R9 (line 280 and 284)

- Francene clarified that the first thing on the Agenda for the new board is to look at the recommendations made to groups about contributions to IG/NSB (LSB)/R9 and WSO. This amendment was then left open to accommodate any policy changes here.
- Line number 15: Registration fee of up to 70 Euro – Ewa asked who is going to decide what this fee is.
- Francene argues this fee would be determined by the Board along with the hosting committee could determine this fee based upon various costs
- Line 127 and 209: moves from 2 months after to 3 months prior Sandra asked for clarification 2 months after receiving the invitation; this should say 3 months *after* the Assembly invitation.
- Line 246 doesn't specify what currency the PayPal account will be in
- Line 256 – suggestion of a figure of £1,500 prior to approval from the Board that the treasurer can approve. David stated this figure was compatible without affecting the operation of day to day banking duties. Sandra suggest this should come down to debate as its increasing risk.

### **New Business Motions**

**NBM 1:** Lisa proposed that the changes to the policies and procedures manual which the committee have brought, *subject to amendments brought to the Assembly*, will be adopted.

Proposed Amendments to New Business Motion 1 (via unanimous consent):

1. Line 144, 149 and 150; change to use the word 'service coordinators' instead of 'volunteer coordinator'
2. Line 268 – remove the words 'and banker'
3. Line 127 – remove the word 'invitation'
4. To remove the words 'should', 'shall' and 'must' – the Board would go through the whole document and consider removing those words as editorial changes.

**There were no objections so this was adopted via unanimous consent**

**Amendment No.1:** David spoke in favour of Amendment1 at line 308-315 (that proposals for attendance at WSBC can be brought at the Assembly, instead of prior to the Assembly, to adopt the wording in Column D as opposed to Column C)

Amendment No.1 was adopted

**Amendment No.2:** Line 265 – to remove over £1,500 and insert £500. At the end add ‘if the treasurer is also the banker, approval will be required by another Board member for all payments’.

Elaine and Sandra spoke in favour of the amendment.

Ewa spoke against the amendment

Amendment No.2 was adopted.

NBM1: (as amended)

NBM1 was adopted

*Length of Abstinence count: 236 years amongst those present at the Assembly*

*Session closed with serenity prayer in Polish*

## ASSEMBLY SESSION 4

Serenity prayer was said in Welsh

The deadline to apply to go as a rep to WBSC at the Assembly has been extended to Thursday evening, to allow people to apply at this Assembly.

### **Approval of budget (Any changes 2017-18; 2018-19)**

- David discussed making a proposal for the surplus funds and for the prudent reserve.
- It was concluded that Euro 14,309 will be added to the budget after determining what the prudent reserve would be (last night).
- After the deficit (1,125) is accommodated this leaves 13,184.
- An additional 7.125 Euro will be added to the budget for 2017-18.
- From this 6000 Euro will be contributed to WSO and 1,125 will be used to accommodate this year's deficit of 1,125.
- The *ad hoc* committee suggested that the remainder of the surplus (7,184 Euro) will be added to next year's budget (2018-19). Possibilities suggested for this are PI and Translations.

### The Budget was adopted as amended

#### Proposals for 2018-2019 Budget

- David highlighted the existence of the special projects and translations funds which are currently underused.
- Stella also highlighted that the equivalent funds at WSO also
- Stella suggested using a fund to employ someone to do some translations; at WSO the initiative comes from the Translation Committee to carry out a translations project each year.
- David suggested adding Euro 2,000 to the 3012a Secretarial Expenses – Committees to accommodate some form of outreach project in one of the Committees. Further to this another 5,000 would be added to the budget for WSO.
- A new line item will be added as Committee Projects, 2,000 Euros

## Provisional 2018-2019 Budget was approved

### Affirmation of Trustee

- Stella stated that she would like to serve another 3 years as trustee.
- Questions? Elaine asked the main thing she has brought into her trustee role;
- Stella answered translation and financial information in other languages
- Ana asked if there is any hesitation in Stella's application
- Stella said she would have withdrawn if another person had come forward
- Ana asked about programme and abstinence
- Stella highlighted the importance of revisiting the food plan, and also working regular inventories; the spiritual aspect is very important

An election was held by the process of ballot

### Credentials report

21 people are eligible to vote (Chair can vote on this motion)

21 yes votes for Stella, there were zero 'no' votes; Stella was affirmed as Trustee

Ana proposed and Ewa seconded a motion to destroy the ballots

### Financial Proposal from Treasurer

There are three accounts in Region 9: Euro Account, Savings account and Current account.

The idea of having a savings account was gain interest, interest rates are so low and these have not been obtained.

In practice there has been no difference in sending money in Euro's to a Euro account in the UK.

Financial Proposal (accounts): Proposed that we close the R9 reserve account, and keep the current account open.

12 in favour – this account will be closed.

8 against

Financial Proposal (accounts) 2: Proposed that we close the Euro account.

- Ewa – is there an impact with the exchange rate? All expenses are paid in sterling, so the money has to be transferred to sterling.



- There are fees in international banking, it doesn't matter that you are paying in the same currency, so there are little advantages to the Euro account.
- Ewa – asked what the costs are of having the Euro account? – There are no costs.
- Emma asked if we have any idea of how much we have lost due to the fall of GB sterling against the Euro. It is hard to transfer the money between the accounts.

#### Vote on Proposal to close Euro Account

11 to close Euro account

7 people against

Francene announced that various roles are available for volunteers to do service in Region 9 for the coming year:

- Sponsor List Coordinator
- Countries Outreach Coordinators
- Bylaws and P&P Coordinator
- Website Coordinator
- Language Lists Coordinator [Translations]
- Financial Glossary List Coordinators
- Newsletter Coordinator position
- Spanish Language Service Liaison

#### Committee Meetings

1. Translations
2. Public Information
3. General Purpose Statement,

Setting Goals, Tasks

### **Reporting Goals & Tasks for 2017-18**

#### **Committee 1 Group Support for Recovery World Wide**

##### **Goal 1: Create a New Meeting Support Process**

1. To write a letter that can be send to new groups how we can support them
2. Create a Skype list of people who are willing to contact with new groups
3. Offer and collect literature for new groups

## **Goal 2: Scoping Project**

1. Establish a dialogue with new/potential groups in OA in Southern Africa to see how we could assist them: Ghana Kenya and Zambia

Committee Members: Elaine, Lisa, Emma, Pat, Alexandra, Margaret

## **Committee 2: Public Information**

Goal: To translate the poster and put it on the Region 9 web site to make it available to all the meetings in the Region

Committee Members: Hilde, Laerke, Regula, David, Soraya

1. To ask WSO if they can make the posters
2. Send out announcement in which they ask for help to translate the text on the poster
3. Committee members will ask for help with translation
4. Ask for fund from committee projects committee
5. Ask the web site coordinator to put this up on the website

\* This committee has no chair because Soraya can't be the chair

## **Committee 3: Translations**

Goal 1: To update the list of translations that exists on the WSO web site

1. To carry on with this work to update the list

Goal 2: To create a meeting starter kit that can be downloaded from the web site and translate into 5 different languages and to translate a glossary

Ine (Chair), Nelly, Ester, Patricia, Angelika, Ewa, Francene, Jutta

# FRIDAY, November 3, 2017

## ASSEMBLY SESSION 5

Elaine read the Voices of recovery  
Serenity Prayer in Danish and English

### Election of Service Positions

**R9 Chair** (2 year term) – Francene explained the role of the R9 Chair and the connection with World Service, including attending Region Chairs committees and emails.

Pat asked what Francene gets out of being Chair. – Helps keep abstinence, Francene said doing service for others and holding the love for the region. Alexandra asked how many times Francene has travelled to the United States: there are two Region Chairs Meetings and WSBC. Stella asked about what flexibility there is in the Region Chairs job description. Francene says you have to come to the R9 A&C

**R9 General Officer** (2 year term) – David explained the role of the General Officer which was created last year in Holland. Weekly announcements to the region, Liaison with the web coordinator; updating lots of lists; Liaison with newsletter coordinator and outreach volunteers; step into another role vacated by another Board Member

**R9 Secretary** (1 year term) Taking Notes for the Board Meetings at Skypes, Taking the Minutes for the Assembly, Putting the Invitation Pack and the Assembly Binder  
Updating Various Documents, e.g. Appendix B about the Assembly, Work with volunteers  
Act as contact for a Committee with the Board, Updating of lists

**R9 Treasurer** (1 year term) Maintaining financial records and working with the R9 Banker. Stella asked how many transactions 40-50 payments per year

**R9 Banker** (if Treasurer not from UK) the banker carries out the transactions for what the banker does, just making the payment and receiving the money; now we have online banking it is much easier. The role will become much easier

## **WSBC R9 Delegates (2 and alternate)**

### **Committee Chairs**

#### Election of Service Positions

Francene explained that individuals can nominate others or nominate themselves. The election was held by a written ballot for the following service positions on the Region 9 Board

#### **R9 Chair (2 year term)**

- Nominations: David nominated Francene, Francene accepted the nomination
- Francene spoke for 2 minutes about her interest in being chair for another 2 years. The job involves a lot, Francene is retired
- Francene receive 19 yes votes and 2 abstentions
- Francene was elected as Chair

#### **R9 General Officer (2 year term)**

- Ewa nominated David, accepted
- Ine nominated Ewa, declined
- David spoke for 2 minutes about being chair for another 2 years. He feels there is more to be done and the web site needs some more work
- David received 20 yes votes, 1 no vote
- David was elected as General Officer

#### **R9 Treasurer (1 year term)**

- Ewa nominated Sandra, Declined
- Hilde nominated Caroline, Declined
- Angelika nominated Alexandra, Accepted
- Sandra nominated Pat, Declined
- 18 votes cast, 3 abstentions, 15 yes vote, 3 no votes
- Alexandra was elected as treasurer

#### **R9 Secretary (1 year term)**

- Ewa nominated herself

- Ewa spoke for 2 minutes about her experience as rep for Poland, and her wish to be a non-English speaker on the R9 Board. Ewa feels she will be OK to take minutes of the meetings; we are equal here and so non-English speakers should be able to do this job
- 17 votes cast, 0 no votes, 17 yes votes and 4 abstentions
- Ewa was elected as Secretary

### **R9 Banker**

- Sandra nominated Pat, Pat accepted
- Pat spoke for 2 minutes, she has acted as treasurer for the Heart of England Convention; and R9 rep for her IG
- 21 votes were cast for Pat, Pat received 21 yes votes
- Pat was elected as Region 9 Banker

### **Committee Chairs**

#### Nominations

- Translations Committee Chair: Ine – 21 yes votes, 0 no votes
- PI Committee Chair: Hilde 20 yes votes, 1 abstention
- Group Support for Recovery Worldwide: Elaine 21 yes, 0 no votes
- Each Committee Chair addressed the Assembly

### **WSBC R9 Delegates (2 and alternate)**

- 3 Applications:
- Ine (Sweden) 13 votes
- Loa (Iceland) 10 votes/11 votes
- Ewa (Poland) 10 votes /8 votes

Each applicant spoke for 2 minutes about their experience and suitability for the role and an opportunity to ask questions for 5 minutes.

After a tie in the first round of voting, a second round of voting took place between Loa and Ewa.

## ASSEMBLY SESSION 6

### Election of Assembly/Convention Venue for – 2019

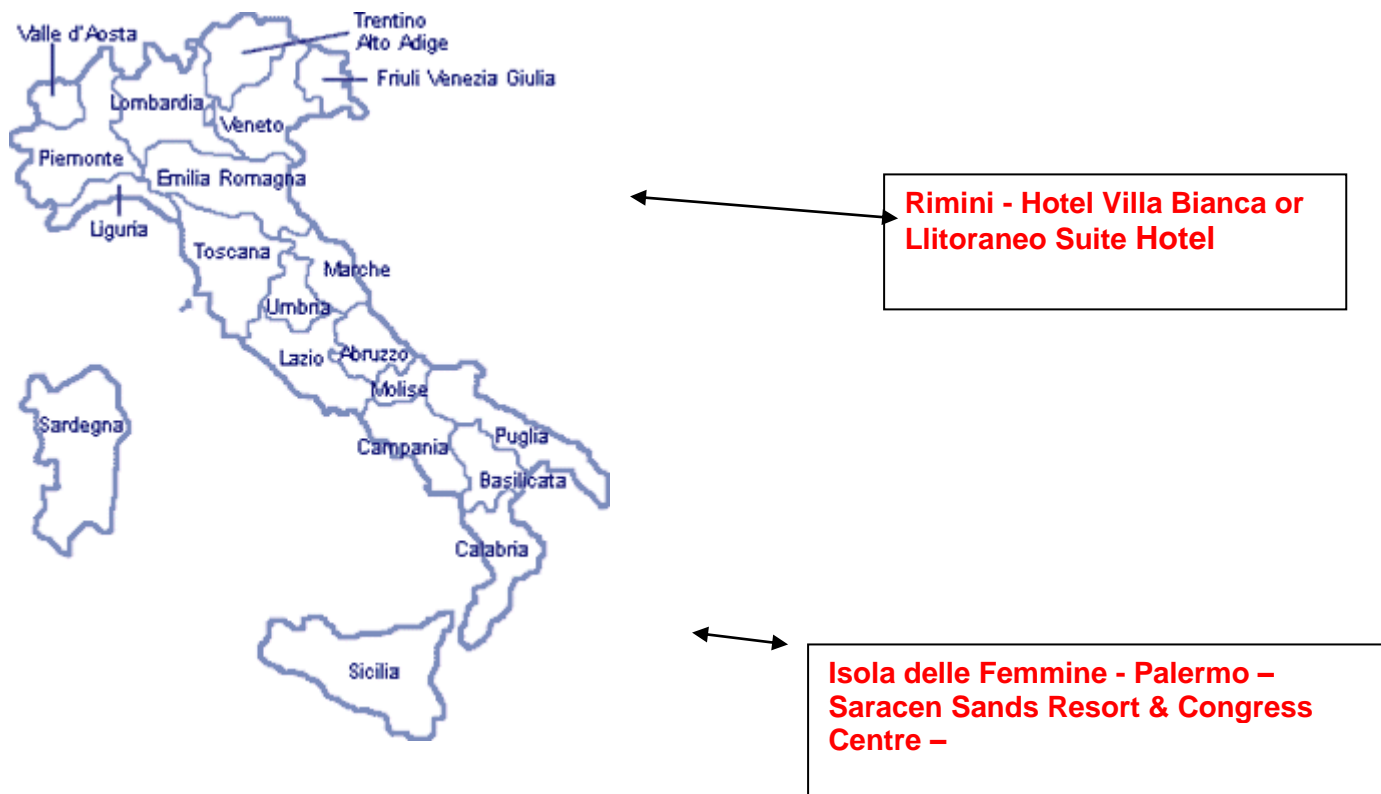
Bid from Italy The following is the bid that Nelly presented

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November 3rd, 2017

The Italian NSB would have the pleasure of hosting the 2019 Assembly and Convention of Region 9. The dates may be September 18-22 or October 23-27. However dates could be re-discussed for further considerations together with Region 9 Service Board. For the moment we have considered two offers received: one from Palermo – Isola delle Femmine - Sicily Region - and one from Rimini – Emilia Romagna Region, but we will also consider other possibilities (e.g. Rome, Florence, Naples or other).

### ITALY



1st Option PALERMO – ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE – (Sicily)

## **Saracen Sands Resort & Congress Centre**

Sicily – Palermo - 90040 Isola delle Femmine

[Via Libertà 128/A](#) - Tel. [+39 091 8671423](#) - Fax. [+39 091 8671371](#)

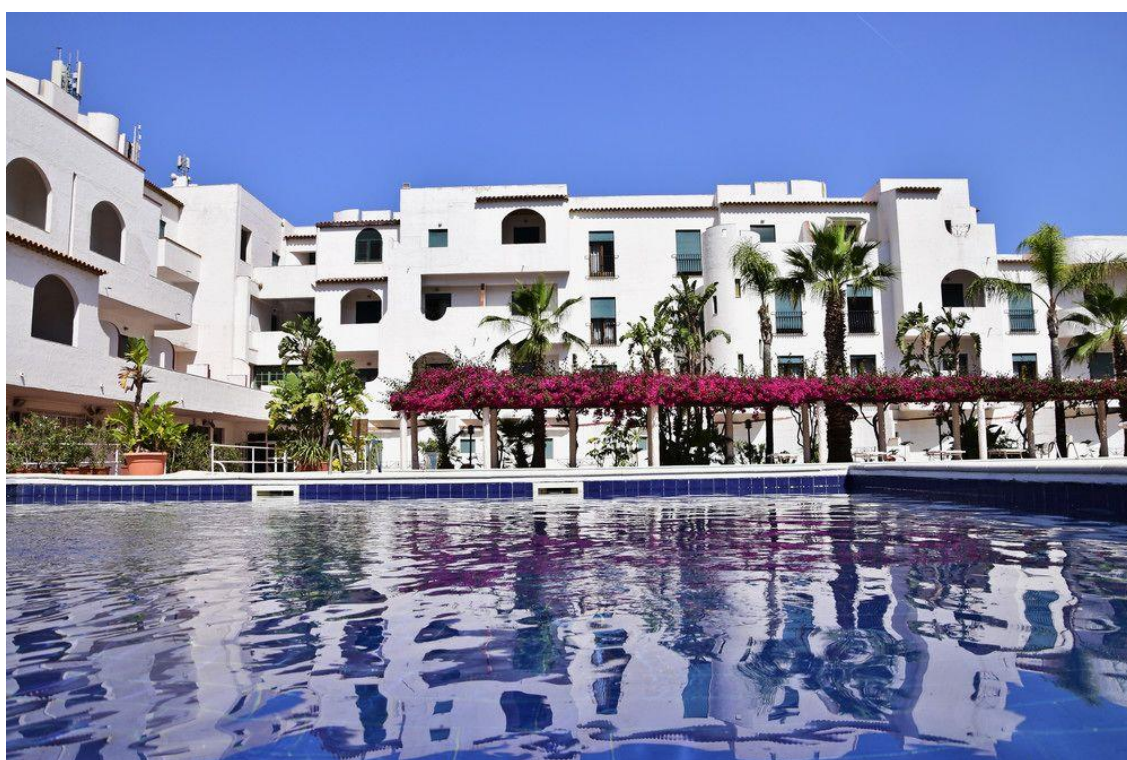
[www.saracenresortpalermo.com](http://www.saracenresortpalermo.com)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwdToHM4\\_I0&sns=em](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwdToHM4_I0&sns=em)

Possibilities to plan excursions: <https://www.saracenresortpalermo.com/escursioni/>

The place is easily accessible from Palermo Airport and then by train (25 minutes) or taxi (11 minutes).

OA have used this venue before for a Step Study



### **Actual prices 2017**

#### **ROOMS:**

Double room single use in full board: € 86,00 per night

Double room in full board: € 67,00 per person per night

Triple room in full board: € 65,00 per person per night

#### **2nd Option- RIMINI – Emilia Romagna**

There has been a Region 9 Assembly and Convention here about 6 years ago

#### **HOTEL VILLA BIANCA - RIMINI**

Tel +39 0541 381458 - Fax +39 0541 381348 [villabianca@tonihotels.it](mailto:villabianca@tonihotels.it)

## **LITORANEO SUITE HOTEL - RIMINI**

Tel +39 0541 381588 - Fax +39 0541 394244 [litoraneo@tonihotels.it](mailto:litoraneo@tonihotels.it)

The two hotels have the same Conference Centre/Restaurant – so same structure



### **PROPOSED STRUCTURES:**

**Hotel Villa Bianca** Viale Regina Elena, 24 Rimini [hotelvillabiancarimini.it](http://hotelvillabiancarimini.it) depending on the availability and management of any surplus we can arrange the participants at our hotel confinant and related from the great hall

**Litoraneo Suite Hotel** Viale Regina Elena, 22 Rimini Tel 0541 381588  
[litoraneohotelrimini.it](http://litoraneohotelrimini.it)

The Annual Conference in April and the Convention in October

### **Meeting Package - Actual prices 2017 /2018**

Full Board Inclusive of: nr. 1 Buffet Breakfast nr. 1 Lunch, drinks included nr. 1 Dinner,

DOUBLE ROOM Euro 53,00 per person per night

TRIPLE ROOM Euro 52 , 00 per person per night

SINGLE SUPPLY Euro 18,00 per night (on the double price)

+ Taxes Euro 2,50/day.

The place is easily accessible from Bologna Airport and then by train (1:30 h)

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## Italy was voted as hosting Region 9: A & C in 2019

Caroline (South East England IG) spoke about the venue for 2018, which will be in London, UK in Roehampton at a retreat centre. The costs are £60 for a shared room per night.

### Volunteer Roles

- Two people are interested in the sponsor list role, people on existing roles will hand-over to the new person.
- Francene thanked the outgoing officers: Emma, Holly, Isabella and Ewa
- Francene welcomed newly elected officers and committee chairs

Francene raised the issue of the possibility of having remote participation of people via Skype at the Region 9 Assembly. This had been done in another Region. They will now try and implement voting remotely. David attended part of this Assembly 2 weeks ago; he spoke about how this works practically in relation to the technical arrangements for such an occasion. One person whose role it is to make sure that the participants were still there.

Delegates spoke and most were in support of the Board investigating this idea for R9. People also highlighted the need to maintain human contact; but to make this available to countries who have never been able to attend R9 due to costs or distance.

It was proposed that this would be a project for the Board this year: carried

### Wrap up session

7th Tradition collected from Assembly – 327 Euro

Green Dot Ceremony – those who had attended the Assembly for the first time came to the front of the room and removed the green dots.

Thanks to outgoing officers, Parliamentarian, Trustee

The Serenity Prayer was said in English, German, Dutch, French, and Afrikaans.

Personal Sharing - Each delegate/visitor/board member had a minute each to share.

No unfinished business

**36<sup>th</sup> Meeting is adjourned until it reconvenes in London, UK**

Responsibility Pledge

**ASSEMBLY CLOSED**