

Region 9 Assembly, September 26-28, 2018

London, UK

Minutes

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

ASSEMBLY SESSION 1

Serenity prayer in Italian and English

Readings: Twelve steps, Twelve traditions, Twelve concepts of OA service, Statement of Purpose, Voices of Recovery September 26.

Getting Started

Introductions: the board and trustee introduced themselves

Welcome

Thank yous

Green dots (18)

Announcements

Present:

Reps: Pat H (Heart of England IG), Emma L (Dutch IG), Ana G (West of England IG), Lisa D (OAGB NSB), Bernie K (Spirit of Hope IG), Darren W (South and East England IG), Dimitrios B (OA Greece NSB), Ilanit F (Gauteng IG South Africa), Emilia L (Italy NSB), Silja H (Iceland NSB), Irene B (Austria IG), Ester (Israel NSB), Ine (Sweden NSB), Alexis A (Friday R9 WhatsApp Meeting), Pam S (North of England IG), Ute (DDOA Germany), Beatrice B (Devon and Cornwall IG), Vasiliki T (AY Thessaloniki IG Greece), Sophia P (Peloponnesus IG Greece), Chema M (Junta NSB De Espana Spain), Kirstin P (North West IG UK), Anna T (Anonymoi Yperfagoi Aydra NSB Athens), Patricia G (IG Suisse Romande Switzerland), Marina S (Berlin and Potsdam IG).

Additional reps due to arrive later: Hilde V – Dutch IG

Board: David S (General Officer/acting Secretary), Alexandra W (Treasurer), Francene A (Chair),

Trustee: Bob F

Visitors: Stella C (UK), Robin S (UK), Francoise M (Switzerland), Rachel G (UK), Harmen S (Germany), Alexandra N (Sweden), Bernadette (Switzerland), Anne D (UK), Regula R (Switzerland), Miranda (Greece)

Credentials Report

Total number of voting members present: 25 (23 reps, 2 board members)

Eleven (11) countries represented: Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Israel, Austria, Iceland, Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Greece, Germany, Spain, Italy

Quorum constituted: five (5) countries represented.

Discussion regarding the acceptance of Alexis, representing the Region 9 WhatsApp groups, as a member with voice and vote. Assembly voted unanimously to grant Alexis voice and vote.

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, including an explanation of upcoming informal sessions.

Session closed with serenity prayer in Hebrew and English

ASSEMBLY SESSION 2

Session opened with serenity prayer in Greek and English

Getting to Know Each Other

Speed dating was fun.

Length of abstinence count: 298 years amongst those present at the Assembly

Workshop 1 – R9 Budget Workshop

Alexandra provided explanations and led the discussion about the budget. More discussion tomorrow about Prudent Reserve and possible budget Surplus, which will determine the amount of money available for the next couple of years.

Part 2 of this session opened with serenity prayer in German and English

Workshop 2 – Service Body Strengths and Struggles

Summary of things which are working well in the various intergroups. See **Appendix 1** for summary of this workshop.

THURSDAY, September 27th, 2018

ASSEMBLY SESSION 3

The session opened with serenity prayer in Welsh and English

Voices of Recovery for September 27th read.

Announcements from the Chair.

Current eligible voters: 25 reps + 2 board members

Agenda Approval

The revised agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Adoption of Ground Rules

Approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of the 2017 Assembly Minutes

Approved by unanimous consent (no amendments).

Appointment of the Minutes Approval Committee

Ester, Hilde and Lisa were appointed to join the minutes approval committee.

Timekeeper & Timing

Ilanit was appointed as timekeeper.

Questions Arising from Reports:

Chair, Secretary (Ewa not present at Assembly), Treasurer, General Officer, Trustee and PI Chair all presented written reports (in the binder).

Attached, **Appendix 2**, is an addendum to the Trustee’s report which was handed out to the Reps. The Trustee was asked about Bariatric surgery focused meetings and possible changes of the serenity prayer.

The Board of Trustees recently allowed the addition of “Bariatric surgery” as a possible meeting focus. Even though bariatric surgery is still considered an outside issue, the change was made so that members can refer to it in shares in a safe environment.

Bob, our Trustee, clarified that the Serenity Prayer is in the public domain and we have no control over who changes and who translates it. It is recommended, in the name of unity, to keep the commonly used version for all meetings.

Explanation by the Chair regarding a “Consent Agenda”, and informal discussion, with questions and answers, about the motions.

Discussion:

There were questions and explanations regarding the various motions.

New Business Motions

Summary of the New Business Motions:

NBM 1, through to NBM 6 will be considered part of the Consent Agenda.

- NBM 1
Proposal to amend Bylaws “Article XII - Amendments to The Bylaws”, ensuring proposals are only sent by service bodies, not individuals.
- NBM 2
Proposal to amend Bylaws “Article VII – Composition of Region 9 Board”, and “Article IX – Committees”, removing references to Finance and Budget Committee.
- NBM 3
Proposal to amend Bylaws “Article IX – Committees”, and “Article X – Financial Structure”, to make Banker position a permanent one.
- NBM 4
Additional proposal to amend Bylaws “Article IX – Committees”, and “Article X – Financial Structure”, to make Banker position a permanent one.

- NBM 5
Proposal to amend Bylaws “Article XII – Amendments to The Bylaws”, regarding adopting changes to our Bylaws as a result of WSBC adopted amendments.
- NBM 6
Proposal to amend Bylaws “Article X – Financial Structure”, regarding the definition of “Standard Costs” and the setting of the prudent reserve.

Decision: NBM 6 is pulled from the consent agenda. Ester and Ana G will be preparing an amendment to this motion (see **Appendix 3**).

The consent agenda, consisting of New Business motions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 was voted upon and adopted. As these motions all involve changes to our Bylaws, a 2/3 majority was required to pass. (See **Appendix 4**)

Proposal 7

Motion to present at WSBC: To allow participation of virtual intergroups in a land-based region, in addition to the virtual region.

There was discussion separately about this motion.

There were 2 people speaking FOR, 1 person spoke CON.

There were questions and discussion. The Chair reminded the Assembly that all motions sent to WSBC are subject to review by at committee of Trustees, and that the wording may be altered slightly.

The majority voted FOR this motion as presented. (**Appendix 5**)

ASSEMBLY SESSION 3 – part 2

Session opened with serenity prayer in Swedish and English.

Budget presentation and vote: Alexandra presented figures of contributions forwarded to WSO on behalf of R9 service bodies, totaling about £6,400.

Alexandra presented some options for determining prudent reserve.

The amended Budget for 2018-2019 was adopted as amended (Column E) (see **Appendix 6**)

The provisional 2019-2020 budget was approved as presented (see **Appendix 6**)

Presentation regarding the proposal for restructuring the OA Board of Trustees (The revised proposal will be presented at WSBC 2019).

Reps provided feedback on this presentation on special forms created for this purpose.

Session closed with serenity prayer in Icelandic and English

ASSEMBLY SESSION 4

Session opened with the Serenity prayer in German and English

Discussion/comments about BOT restructuring presentation.

New Business Motions (continued)

NBM 6

Proposal to amend Bylaws “Article X – Financial Structure”, regarding the definition of “Standard Costs” and the setting of the prudent reserve.

An amendment was received for this motion – presented by Ana G. Amendment seconded by Ester.

Ana spoke FOR the amendment. Nobody spoke AGAINST the motion.

There were questions that were answered by the Chair.

The Assembly voted FOR the amendment, and the amended motion will now be debated.

The amended motion was opened for debate.

A second amendment was presented by Ana G, seconded by Alexis.

A third amendment was presented by Lisa, and seconded by Ana G.

The third amendment was debated, voted upon and adopted.

Debate was then held on the second amendment.

The second amendment was presented by Lisa, and seconded by Ana G.

The main motion was then voted upon and adopted as amended (all 3 amendments) (see **Appendix 3** for adopted motion).

The Chair mentioned the idea of remote attendance at Assembly. If you’re interested, then please contact David.

Visitors are asked to confirm their name/country with David.

“Conflict Resolution Worksheet” was displayed by the Chair, and is attached as **Appendix 7**. The Chair spoke about the importance of “chain of communication”. It’s important to ask questions of the next level before jumping to the end of the structure.

David spoke about service coordinator positions available – a sign up list was sent around.

7th Tradition basket was passed around.

Session closed with serenity prayer in Greek and English

After the break:

Session opened with the Serenity prayer in Spanish and English

Committee Meetings

- Translations
- Public Information
- General Committee

Francene spoke about serving on committees in general, and in the General Committee in particular.

Hilde and Ester spoke about what the PI and Translations committees did in the last year.

General Purpose Statement, Setting Goals, Tasks. Forms were provided for each of the committees to complete as part of planning for the coming year.

Thursday Evening

Session opened with the Serenity prayer in Russian and English

Translations workshop. Handout from Bob regarding a memo from the World Service Office of OA, which refers to the referencing of OA literature in our translations is attached as **Appendix 8**, and the Translations Workshop questions are attached as **Appendix 9**.

Sanity with Service workshop, lead by David, General Officer. See **Appendix 10** for questions and **Appendix 11** for the results.

Session closed with serenity prayer in Afrikaans and English

FRIDAY, September 28th, 2018

ASSEMBLY SESSION 5

Voices of Recovery from September 28th was read.

Session opened with the Serenity prayer in Dutch and English

Announcements: R9 GDPR committee will meet on Saturday 4.00 pm at Board bungalow. Everyone is welcome.

Francene highlighted the new “What is OA About” page on oa.org.

Committees (continued). Reporting Goals & Tasks for 2018-19

Committee 1: Translations

Committee Members: Chema (Chair), Ine, Ester, Alexandra (Sweden), Stella, Anna T, Francoise (Switzerland), Bob.

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| <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen communications (French literature issue).• Provide translations in real-time at Assembly.• Advise Service Bodies to translate 12&12 as a package (not just the 12&12 book).• Encourage reps from non-English speaking service bodies to come to assemblies.• Remind Service Bodies that funds are available in R9 and WSO for translating (letter)• Video from WSBC |
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Committee 2: Public Information

Committee Members: Hilde (Chair), Silja, Vasiliki, Pat, Ana G, Emma, Kirstin, Alexis, Marina, Ute, Ilanit, Regula, Anne

3 subcommittees

1. Research/Viability and needs of teens – Ilanit (liaison), Regula, Anne
2. Recovery stories from healthcare professionals – Silja (liaison), Vasiliki, Pat, Ana G
3. Podcasts – ESH with regards to PI service – Emma (liaison), Kirstin, Alexis, Marina, Ute

| <u>Goals</u> | <u>Action Items</u> |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Research viability and needs of teens.</p> <p>2. Develop a programme for teens and get feedback.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach social workers in schools • Contact Alateen and attend meetings • Find out legal ramifications. • Connect with dieticians familiar with OA • Connect with psychiatrists familiar with teen eating disorders. • Speak to educators • Look at existing eating disorder school programmes • Design a programme • Present at R9 Assembly next year. |
| <p>3. Collect and share OA recovery stories from recovering healthcare professionals who are also OA members.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask members for stories • Compose draft for requests (already done) • Receive, proofread, edit • If possible, post to R9 website • Make available for local use, access to professionals who are NOT members of OA |
| <p>4. Podcasts, lead shares, PI Information on R9 website.</p> <p>5. Workshop</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload podcasts to R9 website and other websites in the region. • ESH from WhatsApp meeting shares - podcasts • Workshop based on Recovery Roadmap (WSBC 2018) for R9 Assembly 2019 |

Committee 3: General Committee

Committee Members: Bernie (Chair), Sophia, Robin, Irene, Dimitris, Miranda, Patricia, Bernadette, Rachel, Emilia, Stella, Lisa, Darren

| <u>Goals</u> | <u>Action Items</u> |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New meeting letter. 2. Twinning and raising awareness of the 12 Step workshop and study guide. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft information letter for new OA meetings/ Groups to committee to be updated. • Create a WhatsApp group to exchange ideas • Twinning with another member at this assembly (support in service) • WSBC motion to separate 4th step inventory section of the guide as a separate booklet (downloadable) |

Session closed with serenity prayer in Afrikaans and English

After break:

Session opened with the Serenity prayer in French and English

Election of Service Positions

Explanation from chair regarding elections. Francene explained that individuals can nominate others or nominate themselves. We do not have a Trustee nominee to be affirmed at Assembly. The entire region is asked to help identify possible candidates for this position. Francene explained the process in the case where we are unable to identify a candidate, a process that was undertaken last year, resulting in Bob being appointed for 1 year.

All voting will be conducted by written ballot.

R9 Treasurer (2-year term)

Alexandra was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Alexandra spoke for 2 minutes about her interest in being Treasurer for 2 years.

There were some questions for Alexandra.

Alexandra received 27 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 invalid/abstain votes

Alexandra was elected as Treasurer.

R9 Secretary (2-year term)

Call for nominations: Several members were nominated but declined.

The Chair (incl. Board and Trustee) will now have to appoint someone to fill in until next year.

The nominees who declined were asked to give some reasons why they declined, to try and learn from their reasons to help find someone who would be willing.

Bea was nominated, and she accepted the nomination.

Bea spoke for 2 minutes about her interest in being Secretary for 2 years. She mentioned that due to personal circumstances, she will only really be able to begin the position in a few months' time.

There were some questions for Bea.

Bea received 28 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 invalid/abstain votes

Bea was elected as Secretary.

R9 Banker (1-year term)

Anne was nominated and accepted the nomination.

Anne spoke for 2 minutes about her interest in being Banker for 1 year.

There were some questions for Anne.

Anne received 27 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 0 invalid/abstain votes

Anne was elected as Banker.

WSBC R9 Delegates (1 and alternate)

One application was received – Vasiliki from Greece.

Vasiliki spoke for 2 minutes about her interest in serving in this capacity.

There were some questions for Vasiliki.

Vasiliki received 25 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 0 invalid/abstain votes

Vasiliki was elected as WSBC Delegate.

Committee Chairs (Translations and General Committee) – 1-year terms

Chema was nominated for the position of **Translations** Committee Chair, and he accepted.

Chema spoke for 2 minutes about his interest in serving in this capacity.

There were some questions for Chema.

Chema received 28 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 invalid/abstain votes

Chema was elected as Translations Committee Chair.

Bernie was nominated for the position of **General** Committee Chair, and she accepted.

Bernie spoke for 2 minutes about her interest in serving in this capacity.

There were some questions for Bernie.

Bernie received 28 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 invalid/abstain votes

Bernie was elected as General Committee Chair.

A motion to destroy the ballots was proposed by Alexis and seconded by Ester. The motion was voted and passed.

ASSEMBLY SESSION 6

Session opened with the Serenity prayer in English

Presentation from Italy hosting committee – 2019. Emilia spoke about 2019 Assembly and Convention.

Rome was selected as it is easier for international travelers.

Further information can be found on the Region 9 website.

Election of Assembly/Convention Venue for – 2020, 2021

There are no applications to host in 2020/2021, although several service bodies expressed initial interest. Interested service bodies are asked to present proposals to the R9 Board by **20th July, 2019**.

The Chair is willing to entertain a new motion. The motion is attached to the minutes, and is numbered NBM 8 (Step 4 Inventory literature)

Motion proposed by: General Committee

The motion was debated. Members spoke FOR the motion and AGAINST the motion.

There were questions.

Voted For: 19, Voted against: 5

Motion was carried. (See **Appendix 12**)

Wrap up session

Session opened with the Serenity prayer

Thank you to the SEEIG hosting committee who worked hard all year to organize Assembly and Convention.

7th tradition collected from Assembly. Some members contributed in Pounds, some contributed in Euro. The totals collected for each currency are: £264.10 and €81.16.

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

Thanks to all our officers Francene, David, Alexandra and Ewa, to Bob our Trustee, to the reps and visitors. Thanks to Hilde, ongoing PI committee chair, to Pat, the outgoing banker, and to the newly elected Banker and committee chairs.

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

No unfinished business

37th meeting is adjourned and will reconvene in Rome, Italy 2019

Responsibility Pledge

ASSEMBLY CLOSED