

From: David S, Region 9 Chair
Email: chair@oaregion9.org

August 2020

INVITATION TO OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS REGION 9 [VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY](#)

Dear Region 9 OA Fellows,

Region 9 is pleased to provide you with information regarding the upcoming **Region 9 Virtual Assembly**.

Virtual Assembly will take place by both email and Zoom, with an initial Zoom introduction meeting (2 hours) on Thursday October 15th, followed by emailing of motions and other important documents later on this day.

Zoom sessions for Assembly will continue on Thursday October 29, and Friday October 30, 2020.

R9 Business Assembly FIRST:

The **Assembly** this year will take place with both Zoom meetings and email correspondence. The Assembly involves the 'business' portion of 'carrying the message' within Region 9. R9 Service Bodies (Intergroups, National Service Boards, Language Service Boards) are asked to send their elected Representative(s) to participate in the business of R9 for this Assembly. Assembly representatives are asked to make a commitment to R9 service the following year.

As Assembly is virtual this year, it is an ideal opportunity for ALL service bodies in OA to send Reps and participate in the business of Region 9.

The business this year will be less than a usual year, but will include:

- Elections of Officers for the coming year (Chair – 1-year term, Treasurer - 2-year term, Secretary – 2-year term, Communications Officer – 1-year term).
- Election of Delegate to WSBC 2021.
- Deliberation with group conscience on business motions regarding new literature, new policies, and R9 Bylaws and Policy Manual.
- R9 Budget proposal discussion and adoption of budgets.
- Committee meetings where goals and tasks are set for carrying the message in R9.
- Affirming candidate/s to be Region 9 Trustee (to be voted at WSBC 2021).

Other information will be sent via email and/or be posted on the Region 9 website:

- Reports as to the year's R9 service work (Board, Officers, Committees, Trustee).
- Information from WSBC, and other OA Service Bodies.
- Workshops, presentations, discussions.

R9 service bodies benefit from participating as their representatives:

- Gain experience, strength, and hope from the fellowship
- Bring important OA information back to the service body
- Exchange ideas and learn about ways service bodies can carry the message locally
- Develop a network of support
- Learn about service responsibilities

With the R9 committed service work carried on throughout the following year by the representatives, through R9 committees and other OA coordinator service positions, we find that together we can carry the message of recovery in Region 9.

The organizing committee will do their best to ensure that your representative feels at home. We expect that you as a representative will enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship and service which enriches your recovery program while you help with much needed service for OA.

You will find the information about registering and attending the Assembly contained [here](#). If anything is unclear or you need more information, please let us know.

Program

Thursday October 15th, then Thursday October 29th and Friday October 30th 2020

Zoom sessions (all times in UK time):

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| <u>Thursday October 15th</u> Introduction Session - 8.00-10.00 | <u>Friday October 30th</u> Business session #4 8.00-10.00 Business session #5 11.00-13.00 Business session #6 14.00-16.00 (if needed) |
| <u>Thursday October 29th</u> Business session #1 8.00-10.00 Business session #2 11.00-13.00 Business session #3 14.00-16.00 | |

Email

After the introduction session on Thursday October 15th, an email will be sent to all registered Reps and Officers, including some parts of the binder which would have already been available on the Region 9 website. (We will review this in the opening zoom session).

By the **end of Monday October 19th**, all Reps may send emails to board@oaregion9.org in response to the following matters:

1. Questions to Reports. Reps can ask one question per report. Reps can ask up to 5 questions in total. Reports are from Officers, The Trustee, Committee Chairs and other service coordinators.
2. Questions, “Pro” comments or “Con” comments to business motion regarding new piece of literature. We are not planning on discussing this motion during the Zoom sessions.
3. Questions, “Pro” comments or “Con” comments to business motion regarding new GDPR policy. We are not planning on discussing this motion during the Zoom sessions.
4. Nominations for Board positions. Nominations will also be accepted during the Zoom sessions.

Answers to these questions, and summary of Pros and Cons will be sent to Reps by **Friday October 24th**.

Whatsapp

We will create a Whatsapp group for all registered Reps and visitors. This group will be for informal communication during the two weeks of assembly.

Fellowship

More information to come about meetings, speakers and more that will be taking place over these two weeks.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES

Please note that if you wish to take part in **R9 Assembly**, you must register by **30 September, 2020**.

Registration fee for the Assembly is **£20** for each Representative. Please forward in whichever currency is easiest for you.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Your registration will be confirmed by email.

The **registration fee** will be payable in advance via money transfer.

Only Reps who have fully paid in advance will be entitled to vote at R9 Assembly.

NOTE: Representatives are required to provide a valid service body officer signature (Chair or Secretary) affirming them. When sending your registration form, please ensure that you copy (please do not blind copy) your email to the Service Body Chair or Secretary who countersigned the form as additional confirmation.

For any questions about the registration process and accommodation:

contact2020@oaregion9.org

Assembly Attendance

PLEASE BE AWARE that the Zoom Assembly sessions will take place on Thursday October 15th, Thursday October 29th, and Friday October 30th, 2020.

PLEASE ENSURE that the Representative is aware that he/she should be attending throughout this time.

For Service Bodies:

How many Representatives can be sent to the Assembly?

For service bodies that are not sure exactly how many representatives they are entitled to, the following is taken from our bylaws and defines membership of the Assembly:

Article IV - Section 2a

The voting membership of this Assembly shall consist of

- i. Representatives from Intergroups who are registered with the World Service Office and who are within the geographical boundaries of Region 9.
- ii. Representatives from National /Language Service Boards, who are registered with the World Service Office and who are within the geographical boundaries of Region 9. National/Language Service Boards shall not represent Intergroups which have sent representatives to the Assembly, however if all Intergroups are represented the National/Language Service Boards will still be entitled to one representative.
- iii. Region 9 Board Members.
- iv. The Chair shall not have a vote at the Assembly, except to break a tie and for elections.
- v. Committee Chairs, who are not Intergroup or National Service Board representatives.
- vi. In the event of a Region 9 representative from a registered unaffiliated group receiving a voice [as per Article IV Section 2 (b) iii of these bylaws], they may also be given a vote, subject to majority approval of the voting body [Article IV, Section 2 a (vi)]. The proposed delegate should submit a written statement on why they are unaffiliated, if they plan to be affiliated in the future and if they meet the representative requirements.

Section 2b

- iv. Virtual Intergroups may participate in the activities of Region 9, including voting, with the permission of the Region.

Article IV - Section 3 - Qualifications

- a) Each representative shall be elected by the Intergroup, National/Language Service Board or unaffiliated groups they serve.
- b) The term of Region 9 representative shall be designated by their Intergroup, National/Language Service Boards or unaffiliated Groups and each representative is always subject to recall by those who selected them.

- c) Each representative should have a minimum of six (6) consecutive months of current abstinence and at least one (1) year service beyond group level.

Article IV - Section 4 - Representatives

- a) Each member Intergroup/National/Language Service Board shall be entitled to one representative at the Region 9 Assembly. Intergroups/National/Language Service Boards serving more than 10 groups shall be entitled to two representatives. Intergroups/National Service Boards serving more than 50 groups shall be entitled to three representatives.

Visitors

The Region 9 Assembly is open to OA visitors from inside and outside Region 9. Virtual visitors will need to register in advance, although there is no registration fee for visitors. Only registered visitors will receive the Assembly emails and be provided with the Zoom access codes.

Visitors are also welcome to serve on R9 Committees.

PROPOSING BYLAWS OR POLICY MANUAL CHANGES:

An invitation to propose new motions was sent out to the R9 fellowship on March 28th, with the deadline for submitting these by July 28th. This deadline has now passed. In addition to the motions already received, only motions considered to be of an emergency nature will be considered for discussion at Assembly this year.

SERVICE TO OA REGION 9

Giving service to OA Region 9 is vital to our continuing existence. We will be holding elections for the positions of: Chair (1-year term), Treasurer (2-year term), Secretary (2-year term), Communications Officer (1-year term).

Information with the qualifications for these officer positions and an application is attached. Nominations received ahead of time will be shared with registered Representatives before Assembly. Please consider these positions and discuss serving as an officer with your service body/sponsor prior to attending the Assembly.

HOSTING OF FUTURE REGION 9 ASSEMBLY & CONVENTION

In Italy last year, the Region 9 Assembly decided that the 2021 Assembly & Convention will be hosted by the Caledonian Intergroup in Scotland, and the 2022 A&C will be hosted by the Gauteng Intergroup in South Africa.

At the time of Assembly in Rome, we did not have a host for 2020. However, we are very grateful that the Spirit of Hope intergroup in Ireland stepped up and agreed to host in 2020. As we all know, travel restrictions due to Covid-19 have forced us to conduct 2020 Assembly and Convention virtually.

However, in discussion with all the affected service bodies – Spirit of Hope, Caledonian and Gauteng, we can now confirm **that all 3 service bodies will host**

*Embrace the Similarities
Love the Differences
In all our Affairs*



Assembly and Convention one year later than originally planned. So, Spirit of Hope will host in 2021, Caledonian in 2022 and Gauteng in 2023.

Updated information about these future assemblies and conventions, including dates, will be made public when available.

As a result, R9 Assembly this year will not be discussing hosting of Assembly beyond 2023.

David S
Region 9 Chair

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