

## **BINDER SECTION B**

### **Region 9 Reports**

#### **1. Chair's Report**

##### **Hosting Assembly and Convention 2020**

Assembly in Rome in 2019 ended without a host service board for 2020. The first few months following Assembly 2019 was spent communicating with various service boards in Region 9 about this, eventually settling on Spirit of Hope IG in Ireland. Many thanks to the ad-hoc committee who helped with this process, and of course to Spirit of Hope for agreeing to plan and host A&C 2020.

Then Covid-19 created a new reality for all of us, leading to a decision to hold Assembly and Convention virtually in 2020. Many weeks of uncertainty, and despite the willingness of the Irish hosting committee to adapt, we eventually decided to postpone the hosting of R9 Assembly and Convention (A&C) for the next 3 years, so that Ireland (Spirit of Hope) will host face-to-face in 2021, Scotland (Caledonian Intergroup) in 2022 and South Africa (Gauteng Intergroup) will host in 2022.

This left the R9 Board responsible for planning Assembly 2020. Thank you to the many volunteers in Region 9 who stepped up to help in the planning of Assembly this year.

We approached several service boards in Region 9 asking to host a **Virtual Convention** for Region 9, but we were unable to find one. There may be a R9 Virtual Convention later in 2020.

##### **The Region 9 Board**

Board elections at Assembly 2019 saw two new members join the Region 9 Board – Bernie as Secretary and Alexandra S as Communications Officer.

Along with Alexandra D, our Treasurer, and myself, we have done our best to carry out our duties in the past year. I think this is the first year for quite some time that all the Board members were able to serve the entire year and be at Assembly the following year. My gratitude goes out to you all.

**Board and Committee Chairs meetings** were held via Zoom regularly since our last assembly. The Board and Trustee meet once a month, and the Committee Chairs join once every two months. These meetings help keep all officers on track with goals and commitments. We also have time for discussions of concerns or ideas. Zoom meetings have worked well to allow us all to “see” and hear each other as we coordinate our efforts to serve as your R9 Board.

Thank you to our three committee chairs – Esti, Kirstin and Sophia – for your continued enthusiasm and service throughout the year.

**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 sometimes large but this continues to be an easy effective way to exchange information.

**OA Website & Region 9 Websites** contain a wealth of information. Check them

regularly for service and recovery information. There are many downloads available for members and service bodies. This year also saw the transition of a new webmaster for the R9 website. Many thanks to Jutta from Austria who finished two years of this service, and to Angelika from Greece who has stepped into this service so seamlessly.

**Region 9 Announcements** are mailed weekly. Contact the R9 Communications Officer ([info@oaregion9.org](mailto:info@oaregion9.org)) 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.

### **GDPR Committee**

In addition to handling the “routine” business matters in Region 9, we have still been dealing with the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The committee has been working diligently throughout the year on many topics, including the main GDPR policy for Region 9 which is being brought before Assembly this year to be voted upon.

Many thanks to Francene, Darren, Lucy, Lisa and Alexandra S. for their hard work on this committee.

### **Service, Traditions & Concepts (STC) committee**

At R9 Assembly 2019 the budget was adjusted to provide a large travel budget for this committee to visit Service Boards throughout the region to hold STC workshops. Due to Covid, the travel has obviously been restricted, and the committee has been working diligently to adapt.

Many thanks to Francene, Alexandra D., Lisa, Charlotte and Karen here, and also see separate report from this committee.

### **World Service Business Conference (WSBC)**

Chair’s report and R9 Delegate’s (Chema) report are included in this binder. In light of Covid-19 restrictions, WSBC was held virtually this year, with very few items on the agenda. Despite a Whatsapp group for R9 Delegates, a lack of fellowship which usually accompanies these conventions was felt, which we hope to rectify in future years while we are still doing everything virtually.

**Region Chairs Committee (RCC)** is one of the duties of the Region 9 Chair.

Traditionally, this committee meets face-to-face three times a year – once at WSBC, once in August with the Board of Trustees, and once in the Autumn at one of the Region’s annual Assemblies.

This year, the RCC has been meeting virtually to discuss cohesion, future goals and other matters.

One recent decision made was that we want to hold a Forum workshop at WSBC 2021, even if WSBC 2021 is held virtually, so look out for a fun workshop at WSBC 2021

**We are always looking for those who would like to serve Region 9 as an officer, Trustee, service coordinator, or in our committees. Please consider how you might serve. Together we can....**

This year, all four Board positions will be up for election. I have decided to step down after one year of my two-year term, as has Alexandra S as Communications Officer. Alexandra D is finishing 3 years as Treasurer, and Bernie is not continuing as Secretary after being elected for a one-year term. At Assembly 2020 we will be looking to fill these positions (Chair and Communications – one-year terms; Treasurer and Secretary – two-year terms). There is also a motion on the table to elect a fifth Board member – Vice Chair, so there is a lot of opportunity to serve Region 9.

I especially ask those Region 9 Reps who have been to Assembly once or twice (or more) before to consider stepping up into these important service positions. You do NOT need perfect English for any of these positions, only a willingness to serve.

**Thanks for the opportunity to serve R9.**

I would like to thank the R9 Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Banker, Trustee, Committee Chairs, Service Coordinators, and Representatives for all of their service efforts this year.

It is my pleasure to serve with you all. Your dedication and enthusiasm is inspiring. I may have only served for the one year in this position, but I have served on the Region 9 Board for the past 4 years, and 2 years before that as Rep from NSB Israel. My life and recovery have been enriched due to my experience doing service in Region 9. I cannot recommend this any stronger as a way of giving back what was so freely given to me.

David S,  
R9 Chair

## **2. Chair Report – WSBC 2020**

This report should be read together with Chema's report – Chema was elected in Rome Assembly 2019 to be R9 delegate to WSBC 2020.

R9 was represented at WSBC with a total of 14 Delegates from Italy, Israel, UK, Greece, Ireland, South Africa, Russia and Spain.

Most of the planned business for WSBC 2020 was NOT discussed and will have to be re-submitted for review for 2021. The face-to-face conference was cancelled only a few weeks before it was due to start, and also quite early on in the Covid-19 pandemic. The World Service Office (WSO) and Board of Trustees (BOT) did their best to plan and run WSBC virtually, but since then, OA members throughout the world have gained considerable experience in running the fellowship virtually. I have no doubt that WSBC 2021, if it needs to be run virtually, will be greatly improved with more business, workshops and fellowship.

WSBC continues to be a highlight of my service year in OA. Working together with others in recovery, some of whom celebrate many, many years of abstinence, is an event to be experienced by everyone at some point in your years of service.

### **3. TRUSTEE REPORT**

Submitted By:  
2020

August 2019 - August 7,

Vasiliki Tsinoglou, Region 9 Trustee

	2020	2019
Affiliated Groups	756	727
Unaffiliated Groups	104	146
Total Number of Groups	<b>860</b>	<b>873</b>
Total Number of Intergroups	50	51
Total Number of Service Boards	12 (11 NSBs+1 LSB)	13

#### **A. Region Nine Composition and Language Diversity**

- Region 9 is one of the 10 geographical OA Regions. It serves OA in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Western Asia.
- It covers an area of over 70 million sq km, with over 100 countries.
- OA has a presence in 40+ countries, with active OA Service Bodies, Meetings and/or OAs speaking 40+ languages:

Afrikaans, Arabic, Catalan, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finish, Flemish, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, North Macedonian, Norwegian, Maltese, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Scottish, Sepedi, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish, Ukrainian, Yiddish, Welsh, Zulu.

- Over 15 meetings per week are held in each of the following languages: **English, German, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, French, Greek, Polish, Dutch, Russian, Persian (Farsi)**. Meetings in these 11 languages represent over half of the Region 9 meetings.
- Compulsive eaters in **over the half of the Region 9 countries** cannot yet access to the OA program because of **language barriers**.

#### **B. Trustee General Job Description and specific Region Trustee Job description**

What is a Trustee? A Trustee is one of the 16 members of the Board of Trustees (BOT). The Regional Trustee is the representative of the BOT at the Region Board meetings and Assemblies. There are 11 Region Trustees and 5 General Trustees.

- According to the Board (of Trustees) Reference Manual (BRM), Section I, Part C:  
**Trustees serve Overeaters Anonymous as a whole and act as guardians of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.** Duties include but are not limited to the following:
  - 1) Attend all Board of Trustees' meetings and submit report of activities to the board for inclusion on the meeting proceedings.
  - 2) Chair the Board of Trustee's committee(s) appointed to and submit report of activities to the board for inclusion on the meeting proceedings.
  - 3) Serve as liaison and as an advisor to the corresponding Conference committee, if applicable.
  - 4) Participate in other board committees as required.
  - 5) Answer correspondence whether addressed directly to the trustee or referred from the World Service Office.
  - 6) Participate in service workshops as possible when invited.

7) Attend intergroup and service board meetings as possible when invited. 8) Cooperate with, support, and respect the WSO staff, managers, and all members of the Board of Trustees.

● **Specific Job Description of Regional Trustee** Please refer to Bylaws, Subpart B, Article IX, Section 2. The regional trustees shall maintain liaison between the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the region domain and be the representatives of the BOT in their respective regions and at the region assemblies.

Duties include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Attend all regional assemblies and regional board meetings as required.
- 2) Submit report of regional activities for inclusion on the BOT meeting proceedings.
- 3) Participate in service workshops throughout the region domain. Suggest service workshops for marathons and conventions.
- 4) Upon request, assist service structures within the region domain to organize and operate effectively.
- 5) Serve as a mediator and a discussion facilitator within the region domain when asked.
- 6) Address Traditions or Concepts issues within the region domain. Report to the BOT if it affects OA as a whole, or if it may be of help or interest to other members of the board.
- 7) Assist with service functions in other regions when invited by a regional trustee.
- 8) Notify the WSO of changes in the contact information of the region board's chair or secretary, or the region's mail or email address

### **C. Region Nine Trustee job from August 2019 to August 2020**

● Attended **four Board of Trustees' meetings** -two in Albuquerque NM, US, and two virtual- and submitted reports of activities to the board for inclusion on the meeting proceedings. Being one of the two Trustees from non-English speaking countries and representing the most multilingual Region, **I focused on actions for carrying the OA message beyond language barriers.**

● Was appointed **Chair of two Board of Trustee's committees**:  
- the **Language Service Board (LSB) ad hoc committee** until April 2020 which clarified how the LSBs fit with the OA service structure, facilitating OA speaking the same language, regardless of geographical proximity. Two motions were submitted at the WSBC 2020.  
- and the **International Publication and Translation (IP/T) Committee**, since April 2020.  
Held meetings of these committees, contacted Trustees, SBs, cooperated for distribution of Translation Assistance Funds (TAF 2020 allocations: to Iran NSB 4200\$ and to Russian Native Space IG 4500\$) and Special Translation Fund, submitted reports of activities to the board for inclusion on the meeting proceedings.

● Participated in **Professional Outreach and Public Awareness BOT committee** and **literature reviews**. The committee's job included new Gif /video productions in English and distribution of funds for PO events.

● **Answered correspondence** either addressed directly to the trustee or referred from the World Service Office, from Austria, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Norway, U.K, US, Switzerland, Spain, Russia, Turkey, South Africa. Most of them concerning traditions' practice, new virtual meetings organization, service structure, translation or literature orders. Some on Tradition 7 contribution and PIPO.

● Before pandemic restrictions, participated in **service workshops** throughout the region domain in **Berne Switzerland, Madrid Spain, Rome Italy, Moscow Russia, Thessaloniki Greece and virtually in Isfahan Iran**. Suggested service workshops for conventions. Attended the **Regional and two National Assemblies**.

● During pandemic, assisted **adaption of meetings and meetings formats**, shared solutions for access to the literature, attended or led at least one time all the new virtual meetings in Greek and some in French. Encouraged **new Delegates to attend the virtual WSBC** and assisted in

understanding the process when I was asked to. **Invited representatives and members to attend other countries'/regions' conventions/ workshops**, when time zones and languages were compatible, and **brought back to different IGs their Experience, Strength and Hope (ESH) and new tips for virtual events.**

Participated in **PI interviews/announcements**, on the Greek National Radio **about the OA solution during the pandemic.**

- Attended **Region Nine board monthly meetings**, other **Service Bodies meetings** when invited, and meetings for the preparation of the R9 virtual Assembly
- Cooperated with the WSO staff, managers, and all members of the Board of Trustees.
- Assisted **service structures within the region** domain to organize or operate effectively: Checked the **Bylaws** and **SOP** of several Service Bodies (e.g. DDOA LSB, Iran NSB, Peloponnesus and Creta new Greek IG), contacted others with pending registrations, answered to questions in service meetings or by e-mail about service structure for Russia, Switzerland, Romania, South Africa.
- Served as a **mediator and a discussion facilitator** within the region domain when asked. Usually concerning special focus or literature meetings.
- Addressed Traditions or Concepts issues within the region domain. Reported to the BOT if it affected OA as a whole, or if it may be of help or interest to other members of the board.

#### **D. Ongoing projects to carry the message beyond language barriers**

- **Digital files of translations**

The **WSO resources** include **digital files of translations in 24 languages.**

Please, **send a digital file of every translated item into your language and provide a link to your local website or an e-mail** to make it accessible through oa.org to every interested compulsive eater.

- **Glossaries :**

Glossaries help translators and individual readers who use automatic translations. The WSO resources include only **eight General Glossaries** in the following R9 languages: Afrikaans, French (elaborated in Region 6), German, Greek, Hebrew, Persian, Russian, Zoulou and **one Business Glossary in Italian.**

Please, **send the Glossary in your language** and provide a **link to your local website or an e-mail** to make all glossaries accessible to every interested compulsive eater through oa.org.

- **Where Do I start? Translated E-pamphlets for newcomers**

will be produced through a new project of the IP/T committee. This way, **Where Do I start?** could be easily accessible to be used in combination with new free downloadable **“Temporary Sponsors. Newcomer first twelve days”**. If interested send the translated pamphlet in printing format.

- **Automatic translations at oa.org**

Has been asked and is under development, to upload basic info and documents at oa.org in translatable format (not PDF). This allows translators to work quickly toward more acceptable versions. The versions of the free downloadable new pamphlet **“Temporary Sponsors. Newcomer first twelve days”** were a first answer to the many requests for **downloadable pamphlets for newcomers in different languages.**

With profound respect for the amount of service seen across the Region and OA in general.

Vasiliki T  
Region Nine Trustee

## **4. COMMUNICATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

At the time of writing this report, three months remain for me in this service position and as a Board we are focusing on the planning for the Virtual Assembly 2020. I am very grateful for what has been a great learning experience since taking on the role at my first R9 Assembly in 2019, and I am very much looking forward to helping at the Virtual Assembly in October this year.

### Announcements

Sending out the Weekly Announcements is a principle, routine function of the Communications Officer and takes the form of an informative email sent to all on our R9 Communications list most weeks. This means coordinating with other fellows to compile the various items that go into the Announcements, including: news items; bulletins; calls for service; celebration days and events information; notice of new literature and website updates; and of course, vital Assembly information and documents. With this comes the maintenance of our contact email mailing list. The current focus of the Announcements is the planning and organisation of the Region 9 Virtual Assembly 2020.

### Website

Thank you very much to Angelika, our brilliant web-manager who has done a fantastic job maintaining the R9 website since joining just after my own service term started. We have worked together closely and made several minor updates to the website, as well as the significant addition of a page where fellows can access useful and essential documents about data protection. As with the last couple of years, no major overhaul has been carried out this year. There is much room for development in terms of the website, and any plans for change will no doubt coincide with how our ways of connecting are developing due to the dramatic increase to the use of online platforms and the growing edge of R9.

### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

For the last couple of months, I have joined the GDPR Committee meetings as Board GDPR liaison. Angelika and I have added some of the important documents that the GDPR Committee has worked very hard to create onto the new GDPR page on the website, and this is an ongoing job. The first three documents to be uploaded set out general guidance and guidance on data protection for groups using Zoom, WhatsApp or similar, meeting the need for guidance following the shift from face-to-face to online meetings. I am working with Darren of the GDPR Committee to add the remaining documents to the website. There are other ongoing GDPR-related tasks which I'm working on with Francene of the GDPR Committee, as well as guides for the Board member continuing with the GDPR role post October and the web-manager, so we continue to be GDPR compliant.

### Service Body (SB) Outreach Committee

Thank you to Mairi and Esti who have done a great job contacting the service bodies who were unable to attend R9 Assembly in Rome last year. It's been a pleasure being in contact as the officer maintaining and providing the communications contact lists.

### Translations Committee



Thank you to Esti for sending out an excellent letter to all Region 9 contacts asking for help establishing Translation Committees in different countries. As Esti's letter stated, having OA literature in the local language is very important. It helps in carrying the message and enables OA to grow in the area. Therefore, in order to be able to translate as much literature as possible, Esti's letter has invited fellows to establish in their Service Body a special Committee for Translation. Other than helping with setting up email addresses, providing contact lists, making sure the deadlines for the Translation and Projects Fund were announced appropriately, and providing Esti with the GDPR text to include in her letter, my involvement has been minimal with Translations.

#### Love the Differences Committee

I have maintained contact with Kirstin, the LTD Committee Chair, to help develop ideas for R9's activities that celebrate unity in diversity.

#### Twelfth Step Within Committee

I helped Sophia, the TSW Committee chair to disseminate flyers about reach-out telephone calls on the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month. Other than making sure TSW Committee information such as this has been included in the Announcements, my involvement has been minimal.

#### Newsletter

Our Newsletter Coordinator, Ilanit, made sure that a wonderful Newsletter went out in December 2019 including reflections in Italian, Finnish, Greek and English on members' experiences of the R9 Assembly 2019. The number of Newsletters has varied over the last few years and there is room to develop ways in which we connect with fellows across the region, sharing experience, strength and hope. There is an opportunity to create an exciting record of what we believe will be the biggest and most diverse R9 Assembly yet thanks to its virtual form.

Finally, thank you to the R9 Board – Alexandra, Bernie and David – for everything I've learned from you and for your wonderful service. It has been an honour to work with you. Also, thank you to our Trustee, Vasiliki, who has gracefully and consistently shared invaluable wisdom, experience and knowledge.

Alexandra S

Communications Officer

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

*This report should be accompanied by a financial summary for the financial year 2019/2020 and the revised budget for 2020-21.*

### **About your Treasurer:**

I am Alexandra, a compulsive overeater, and I have been in the position of Treasurer and thus on the Region 9 Board for coming up to 3 years. If you haven't met me before then I should explain that I am not a natural when it comes to finances; I agreed at my very first assembly to be nominated for the Treasurer role and was shocked to find myself elected. I have absolutely loved the past 3 years of serving on the Region 9 Board and I believe a big part of my time in the Treasurer role has been to simplify it so that anyone feels able to take the role on. I am aided this year by a brilliant Banker in the form of Mel and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my current Board fellows and former Board members who continue to support me to do service.

### **About this Financial Year:**

There probably isn't a person on this planet that doesn't know that the World changed this year. All our best laid plans were strewn to the four winds. You will notice an underspend this year and it is understandable since so much of Region 9 business involves travel; we simply haven't needed those funds. Region 9 remains at the growing edge of Overeaters Anonymous; and now more than ever we are being called to innovate, adapt and overcome. The future of the geographical region is now ever more going need supporting with technology and creativity. So the budget for 2020/21 reflects that.

### **The Narrative of 2019/2020 Finances:**

The opening balance of our GBP account for this financial year was £17,442.84

We merged the Euro Account and GBP account so a figure of just over £8004 was transferred to the GBP account and is accounted for under 2001 Service Bodies contributions.

The closing balance of the GBP account was £27,099.50.

We had an underspend of £7,368.78.

The (2001 Code) Contributions from Service Bodies was inflated by the addition of the Euro account balance.

The (2002 Code) Assembly and Convention contributions was higher than hoped for; £1k was budgeted but the reality was £2046.

The (2009 Code) Members Contributions was less than hoped for; £1k budgeted but the reality was £262.

A glance through the Expenditure on the Summary sheet will show you that we underspent on travel and accommodation. The significant items for commentary are:

Code 3009 Technology (Website and Zoom) we budgeted £460 and only spent £223.58 within the financial year but in July 2020 we finally did set up our own Zoom account which is outside of these accounts.

Codes 3100a GDPR Projects, 3100b Committee Projects and 3100c STC Projects all underspent and we might attribute this partly to the Pandemic situation. In the Budget we propose to roll over these budgeted amounts to support the development of the Service Traditions and Concepts virtual workshop offering which will really help the Region at this time.

#### **Treasurer and Banker Role:**

There is much to be celebrated this year. I have very much enjoyed working with Mel as our Banker and I am delighted that Mel will be continuing in the role for a second year. We have now made our transition to the Bankline Business Banking services with NatWest and both Mel and myself have access to the online banking and are able to make transactions.

The signatories on the account have also changed. Thank you to Anne and Belle our former signatories we now have myself Alexandra, Mel as Banker and Darren as the three signatories on the account.

#### **Treasurer Role Vacancy:**

The time has come for me to rotate off the Treasurer position and make way for someone else to enjoy this service. I took on the role for one year at the 2017 Reykjavik Assembly and then was nominated again and voted in for the full two year term at the 2018 London Assembly which saw me attend Rome as my third assembly. I took on the role of Treasurer as a Green Dot, it took me a long time to learn the ropes of being on the Board and what Region 9 truly was. In addition to that for the first year neither myself nor the banker were able to get on the mandate to use the online banking; so we had a former banker relaying all the information to us. To be where we are today with a good, strong working relationship between Banker and Treasurer, a functioning bank account with online access and ability to make payments AND a board member and treasurer in me that now understands the diverse and fascinating landscape of Region 9; it seems a shame to now pass the role on.

It is my hope, if it be God's will, that I may be able to stay on the Board of Region 9 in another capacity not least to provide continuity of business; and even if I am not I will stay alongside the new Treasurer in whatever capacity to ensure I show them the ropes.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

I had promised myself before going to the Region 9 Assembly in Campiano in Italy in 2019 that I would not take on any more service positions because I am a very busy full time working Mum with a lot of responsibilities in work. I also had service positions back in Ireland and wanted to create more time for sponsoring. However, carried away by the enthusiasm and service of other fellows on the board and throughout the Region, I agreed to be nominated for the Secretary position and was honoured to be elected as the Secretary to the Board of Region 9.

It has been a challenging year for me trying to make the transition from service at Intergroup level to Region 9 and trying to understand the expectations of the role and level of input/influence I could have. There was also a lot going on in the world, in my life and in my programme so at times it felt scary and unmanageable.

However, inspired by the other board members, our Trustee, our committee chairs and Region 9 Delegate who faced their own challenges and never faltered from their commitment to their R9 service, I was determined to honour my commitment for the year and to make sure I get through all my tasks before I finish. I have learned in OA that service provides a real opportunity for growth and it is an anchor in my life which keeps me firmly connected to my fellows in OA and this 12 step way of life no matter what is going on.

During my time on the Board my responsibilities included:

- Typing and distributing the minutes of the monthly Board meetings
- Sending reminder emails regarding scheduling of board meetings
- Liaising with the Hosting Committee organising this year's assembly
- Acting as Board liaison for the Twelfth Step Within Committee
- Assisting in the preparation of the Assembly in particular the binder documentation
- Minutes for the R9 Virtual Assembly
- Reviewing and updating the Region 9 Assembly Hosting Guidelines
- In process for approval publication of the 'New 12 Traditions Study Guide 12 Steps and 12 Traditions virtual instructions for WhatsApp'
- Archiving: still to be completed

The secretary position is a great position for anyone who enjoys completing tasks and is a great starter position on the board because you can get involved without having to take on too much responsibility. It affords great insight into the workings Region 9 and OA and the important work that is done at Regional level to carry the message to the still suffering compulsive overeater in our Region who does not have access to translated literature or meetings in their countries – yet.

I would encourage anyone, even remotely curious about serving Region 9, as a Board member, committee member or volunteer, to set aside any doubts you might have and investigate further.

It was a privilege to support the Board in its primary purpose, to carry the OA message to the still suffering compulsive overeater, wherever they may live and whatever language they may speak.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Bernie

## 7. Region 9 Delegate to WSBC report

Hi, my name is Chema, and i'm a COE from Spain. This year i served as Región 9 delegate for WSBC 2020.

As you know, due sanitary emergency, this year the WSBC was held virtually with only minimal business votings done. Only 2 votings were done: Trustee elections and literature motions. The questions round were done via email, compiled and then sent back by the WSO team and poll software was used for voting.

From my point of view, the WSBC going virtual causes less delegates to attend. But other services bodies from over the world, who doesn't attend usually, participated for first time. Participation has been very low, if you check number below. In the years i have been in previous WSBC as Spain NSB delegate, i remember the number of voting delegates to be near 200. This year we had about 180 delegates registered. As you can see in the result charts of the voting, we have been around 140 delegates voting. We had delegates from 13 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Russian, South Africa, Spain, UK, and USA.

### Trustee Elections

The election results are as follows and required a majority of the votes cast. Each candidate received a majority, and ***all are elected to a three-year term. Congratulations to all!***

Name	Position	Votes Sended	Votes Needed	Yes/No	Elected?
Margie G.	Region 1	143	72	131/12	Yes
Meg M.	Region 4	144	73	143/1	Yes
Karen B.	Region 7	142	73	133/9	Yes
Betty J.	GST	146	74	138/8	Yes
Ron P.	GST	143	74	136/7	Yes

This leaves a vacancy for GST (General Service Trustee), which is the two years remaining on a three-year term. Per the Bylaws, the Board of Trustees may choose or not choose to fill the vacancy. This will be discussed at the May board of trustees meeting.

### Literature Motions

This year we voted for 4 pieces of literature. They are pamphlets, not books. The results for the literature motions is as follows and required two-thirds of the votes cast.

Title	Votes sended	Votes Needed	Yes/No	Adopted/Failed
In OA, Recovery Is Possible	138	92	125/13	Adopted
Temporary Sponsors: Newcomers' First Twelve Days	140	93	126/14	Adopted
To the Young Person	138	92	131/7	Adopted
A Lifetime of Abstinence	139	93	125/14	Adopted

After all this voting committees are being created. This year i'm going to serve in the bylaws committee. But i missed the most interesting part: the referee committee that works usually during the face to face assembly, not celebrated this year.

That's all until now.

Thanks to you all for this wonderful opportunity of doing service

Chema.

Oa Región 9 delegate for WSBC 2020.

## **8. TWELFTH STEP WITHIN COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Updated Dec 19 R9 Welcome letter has been sent for translation in all speaking languages.
2. Letter to unaffiliated groups was sent for translation to all speaking languages.
3. Draft letter to suffering groups informing that can ask for help in process.
4. Job description of 'New Group Rep or Group Mentor'.
5. Flyer which motivate members to make calls on the 12<sup>th</sup> each month was adjusted & sent to all delegates who attended assembly 2019 to circulate to their countries. It is also available in R9 website for future encouragement.
6. Compile a document sharing how members prepare & share 3 Gratuities, 3 Affirmations, 3 Intentions on a daily basis. Motion will be presenting at next R9 Region meeting, Oct 2020.
7. Review 'Resources & Relapse' adjust for our region 9 in process.
8. Raise awareness of the 'New 12 Traditions Study Guide & 12th Steps and 12 Traditions virtual instructions for WhatsApp' i.e. Flyer for R9 website, email communications, WhatsApp OA groups in process for approval from WSO.

In service to OA fellowship,  
Sophia PI.

## **9. Translation Committee Report**

Dear Friends,

The translation Committee has been established at the R9 Assembly 2019 for 2 years. The members of this Committee are Emilia from Italy, Chema from Spain, Prune from France, Flavia from Italy and Esti from Israel.

The goals of the Committee were:

1. Help establish translation committees for R9 languages in need.
2. Lists

The two goals required sending letters to all our contacts in R9 but before doing it we needed to get permission to keep the details of those contacts according to the GDPR rules.

It took a while to get the wording from the GDPR Committee and then on March 1 2020 we sent out a letter to 51 contacts. The letter contained R9 Privacy information, What details we keep, Where we keep it, who has access to this information, how we store and secure it and asked the contact to write back, to affirm that they understand and accept the R9 Translation List Privacy Information and that they give their consent for their personal information to be used as described.

We received one answer from Hungary and then because of the Covid 19 uncertainty everything was on hold for quite a long time. On June 6 we sent a reminder to the same letter to all contacts and got a few answers mostly from countries that are more organized with translations.

We have prepared 3 letters the first letter was about establishing a special Translation Committee in each country of R9 and see if anybody needs help in this area. The second letter was encouraging the service bodies to ask questions referring to translations and the third letter, that is connected to the second goal, was to find out the links to where to find literature in the different countries of R9 and to make a list of them.

One of our tasks has been to make a list of all the virtual meetings in R9. As we all know because of the COVID 19 problem most face to face meetings became virtual so there is no point in having this list for the time being.

We haven't fulfilled our tasks due to the circumstances mostly because we don't have a list of contacts that gave us their consent to keep their privacy information. We still have about two months to try to have even a short list of contacts, where to find their literature and to see if they had their glossary done.

It was quite a challenging year and I want to thank all the members of this committee for their service.

Love in service,  
Esti O.

Chair of Translation Committee.



## **10. Love the Differences Committee Report**

This report was not available at the time the Binder was prepared. Hopefully we will be able to forward this report to Reps before Assembly.

## **11. GDPR Committee Report**

The GDPR committee has completed all of the documents for policies and procedures for Region 9 to be in compliance with GDPR. The committee then prepared the motion for the appendix to the R9 policy manual containing "Region 9 Data Protection, Information Security, and Privacy Policies." This will be in your information for this 2020 Assembly.

We realise this process took longer than anticipated but we have documented our process along the way in case of any inquiries while we were completing the work.

We are in the process of putting documents to be useful to service bodies on the R9 website. Please check those when you have need of information on privacy, data protection, GDPR, etc.

The committee also assisted the Virtual Region with their first virtual convention in establishing appropriate data protection procedures for that worldwide event.

The committee also provided some general guidance for meetings on virtual platforms which can also be found on the website. This is useful for virtual meetings and meetings that use apps to communicate with each other between meetings.

The handling of the privacy, data protection, and information security will now transition to the Region 9 board members. The committee members are able to assist in that transition.

We're happy to report that we feel Region 9 is doing well in these areas. The committee is thankful to all who helped in these efforts.

The World Service Office is still working on implementing their compliant processes and procedures. We originally felt this might have impact on us as a Region. However, we understand they are in the process of doing this and we no longer feel that risk is very significant.

There is still some financial risk if we would have a data breach while handling member's personal data. We learned this the hard way from the Virtual Region Convention committee's experience of an accidental breach that did have some impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Francene A  
Darren W  
Lucy C  
Lisa B  
Alexandra S

## **12. Service, Tradition, and Concepts (STC) Committee Report**

The R9 STC committee started really strong following the assembly last October in Italy. At the assembly we presented a shortened version of the ST&C workshop that was fun and a shared learning experience. Following this experience, the committee members were excited to bring the ST&C workshops to service bodies throughout Region 9.

The committee had plans for further developing the ST&C workshop after the assembly into different segments that could be presented in different time frames depending upon the needs of the service body. Requests were received from six different service bodies (some which were more than one service body coming together for the workshop) to conduct ST&C workshops for their members.

Unfortunately, the pandemic meant we had to cancel plans for all these workshops. Because we were going to strengthen our experience as a committee in these initial workshops, and because of our own personal situations during these challenging times, we were at a standstill for some time.

The committee has come back together now. We have shifted directions and are looking at how we can bring the Service, Traditions, and Concepts workshop to Region 9 in a virtual workshop. This is new for us and will require some coordination, experimentation, and thinking differently.

The committee continues to be dedicated to helping fellows learn more about how service helps personal recovery, how traditions help us work together, and how concepts help us in giving service.

When we have our virtual workshops ready, we will make an announcement and hope that your service body will consider hosting a virtual workshop for OA fellows.

The committee would welcome any representatives or OA fellows who have an interest in helping with our service work to join us.

Francene A  
Alexandra W  
Lisa B  
Charlotte W  
Karen

### **13. New Meetings Welcome to Region 9 – November 2019 – August 2020**

Task: on a regular basis send Welcome letters to new meetings registered in Region 9 – maintain a list of new meetings – contact volunteers, who are able to help with translations.

I took over the service position of New Meetings Welcome letter coordinator at the Region 9 Assembly 2019. The letter was edited in December 2019 and I contacted fellow volunteers for help with the translations. By August 2020 the Welcome letters (version Dec. 2019) are translated into **16 languages:**

Czech, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.

For Romanian and Serbian I did not receive any reply to my requests.

New groups that have not affiliated with an Intergroup or Service Board additionally receive an e-mail to make them aware of this situation. I started to look for volunteers to translate also this e-mail, so far it is available in English and in Greek, with a Farsi translation due to come soon.

Of course, this year was not a good year for face-to-face meetings, due to the pandemic. From November – March there were **26 new meetings** registered and then again **5 new meetings** from May – July.

This service allowed me to be in contact with OA fellows all over Region 9 and it was a pleasure to experience how the fellowship is growing.

Thank you also to Sophia, David and the Region 9 board members for their availability with any questions that may arise and the good team-work...😊

Best regards,

Irene

(IG Austria)

7.8.2020

## **14. R9 Sponsors Coordinator Report**

We provide a list of available sponsors in R9 to any OA member who requests it, filtering the list for the specific member's needs.

We welcome new sponsors who are ready to do service by joining the list. Currently, we have 30 sponsors on our list (July 20th). We have been busy forwarding the list to many individual OA members who write to request it. Interestingly, a large majority of those requests have been coming from the U.K. and Germany, similarly to last year.

This year we worked on updating the list of available sponsors within R9. We forwarded information to the sponsors explaining confidentiality and requesting no sharing of the list with others. Those who never responded to our email, which would have confirmed their current availability as sponsors, and those who so requested were dropped from the list.

We have added a new section to our sample answer, giving more details about sponsorship: "Sponsorship is one of our keys to success. Sponsors are OA members committed to abstinence and to living the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to the best of their ability. Sponsors share their program up to the level of their experience, and they strengthen their recovery through this service to others. To find a sponsor, look for someone who has what you want and ask how he or she is achieving it. (The Tools of Recovery, p.2., 2011) We recommend you to interview the sponsors on our list about their journey in OA, abstinence and stepwork, before you make a decision of working with them."

We have been reaching out to Intergroups and Men Groups in the Region, in hope to increase the number of male sponsors on the list. So far, this has been successful, but we'd appreciate announcing that we are interested in increasing the number of available sponsors, the various languages spoken in our region on the list and the number of male sponsors as well (we only have 2 male sponsors currently on the list). Those interested in joining may contact us directly at [sponsors@oaregion9.org](mailto:sponsors@oaregion9.org).

"Always to extend the hand and heart of OA to all who share my compulsion; for this I am responsible."

Agnes and Reva  
OA R9 Sponsors List Coordinators

## **15. Webmaster Report**

Before service's bullets, I would like to thank Jutta for her patience, direct response, help and wonderful work she has done for our presence on the Internet.

To serve as a region's 9 webmaster includes the following:

- Set up email addresses, reset password
- Update and manage mailing lists
- Update plugins and the whole site
- Edit pages
- Upload and manage media
- Add new pages and content such as our new GDPR page

Everything was happened under the guidance, help and patience of our General Officer, Chair and Secretary.

Angelika

## **16. Outreach Coordinator's Report**

A year in the life, 2020

During my time at R9 A&C 2019, held in Italy, I was able to experience first hand the great benefits of being involved in service beyond intergroup level. The camaraderie and joy of being around fellows from ALL over the globe, who understand what it is to be one who suffers from a food compulsion, is something that has not left me – and I believe that I was able to bring some of the experience, strength and hope home with me to share with fellows in Scotland too. Because of this, I realised as soon as volunteers to undertake this role of outreach ( which involves making contact with various intergroups who were not represented in 2019 at the A&C to encourage their participation ) were called for, that I should attempt to encapsulate the R9 experience in order to similarly spread the message of fellowship and what can be gained when intergroups actively engage with their corresponding Regional body. I felt very passionate about letting the underrepresented countries hear what opportunities they were missing out on....! This feeling was definitely underlined by meeting representatives from countries where OA fellowship is very minimal and hearing how their strength in recovery has grown by reaching out and participating in Region 9. It made me feel so grateful for the well established fellowship that we have within the United Kingdom; not every COE has the same opportunity to recover and with this role, I could contribute in some small way to changing this for the better.

So of course, I embraced the service role with open arms and began planning how I might help to change the world.... until I dropped back into real life and most definitely 'life on life's terms' where other matters deserve our attention. I had to accept that 'gently does it, but do it' was the more Higher Power led approach and this has continued to this day. The first task, and definitely the most challenging, was to construct a letter that was able to really convey the experience of attending R9 but that also made it relatively easy for people all around the globe to read and translate. After a few drafts swapped back and forth with my Outreach partner, as well as drawing inspiration from those fellows who fulfilled the role in 2018, we were ready to go. It was both nerve wracking and exciting to send such a wonderful invitation around the world and I waited with baited breath for the first response....and I waited....and I waited some more. It seems that there may have been some sort of global pandemic that could have been occupying the minds of our fellows from near and far at the time our correspondence was sent and so it was circulated again....

With GDPR rules and regulations, it was at the forefront of my mind not to harass by email, but still it is so important to spread the message. This dilemma reminded me in some ways of sponsorship and general fellowship – it is a careful balance of extending the hand of fellowship to all who suffer whilst also respecting those who simply aren't

ready to take the next step. Still, with a few promising responses now trickling through, it seems that the global situation may be at a level that service bodies and intergroups might be able to focus on matters outwith the immediate circumstance; the beauty of our virtual format this year is that there is a far later registration date than would be involved in the circumstance of a face to face event. Furthermore, there will be far less in the way of travel expenses to deter anyone from participating. We will continue to gently reach out to countries, with the contacts so beautifully organised in an Excel spreadsheet by our predecessors – this made a huge difference to ease of communication so thank you sincerely to the 2018 outreach Reps....!

I have gained a lot from all of the efforts involved in this role, but also the associated reflection about how blessed we are to be involved in region 9 and to have such opportunities for fellowship at home. I continue to be passionate about spreading this message around the region and I would encourage anyone else to volunteer for this role and do the same. Together we get better and there is no more feeling of together than being united across borders, cultures and languages, as COEs in recovery.

Many thanks for this opportunity to do service.

Mairi, Scotland.



## **17. SLSB (Spanish Language Service Body) Report**

**The Junta de Servicio del Idioma Español (JSIE)** has been meeting on a regular basis since last year. Here are some of the highlights of decisions and activities taken over the past year. We meet the first Sunday of every month, at 19:30 CET.

July, 2019 - The language service board decides to not affiliate with any region. We only have a trustee liaison, who happens to be Region 9 Trustee. There is a virtual magazine publishing bimonthly.

October, 2019 - The Virtual Region Trustee offered some changes to our bylaws to include more participants and encourage membership. Due to lack of participation, the changes were not enacted.

February, 2020 - The lack of participation leads the small group of members to meditate on their commitment to the service board and find ways to encourage participation. The group decides to have elections in an extraordinary meeting next month. The virtual magazine is not being published due to technical difficulties.

April, 2020 - Gema, from Madrid is unanimously voted in as Coordinator. Beatriz, from Mexico is unanimously voted in as Secretary. These are two year terms.

June, 2020 - We are still registered as a virtual service body, so we are trying to change that with the WSO. Also, there is unrest because the group Una Visión para Ti, has unduly noted JSIE as endorsing their functions. We take action in two ways. First, we are abiding very closely to the twelve traditions, making sure we practice unity with all groups, while maintaining our autonomy. Also, we ask them to remove the name of JSIE from all fliers of events. The magazine is up and running. The members of the group are taking the initiative to write about their own experience of working the steps.

July, 2020 - We have started sharing online events in our respective intergroups, and attending them. We are coordinating translating projects with the help of the Spanish translation subcommittee. There are few active members, five to be exact, but we are dedicated.

August, 2020 - The Spanish translations committee coordinator attended the meeting to discuss the current books they are translating and to coordinate a translations team for the new book - **Body Image, Relationships, and Sexuality**. We are collaborating on the translation and ebook publication of *Where Do I Start?*

Monica, Madrid  
Region 9 representative to the JSIE