



From: Alexandra D, Region 9 Chair, April 2021

Email: chair@oaregion9.org

INVITATION TO OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS REGION 9 ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL)

Dear Region 9 OA Fellows,

Region 9 is pleased to provide you with information regarding the upcoming **Region 9 Virtual Assembly** which will take place by Zoom in October this year. Please ensure that your service body (intergroup, national service board, language service board or special focus service board) has appointed their Representative to the Assembly by due process. Visitors are welcome at the Assembly. The link to the e-form to register is found in this letter and on the website.

Here are the dates for your diary:

Wednesday 13th Oct

Opening Session and Prep for the 2 weeks 8 - 10 UK Time

Wednesday 27th Oct

Business Session 1 8 - 10 UK time

Thursday 28th Oct

Business Session 2 8 - 10 UK time
Business Session 3 11 - 13 UK time
Business Session 4 14 - 16 UK time

and Friday 29th Oct

Business Session 5 8 - 10 UK time
Business Session 6 11 - 13 UK time
Business Session 7 14 - 16 UK time

R9 Business Assembly FIRST:

The Assembly is the “business meeting” for Overeaters Anonymous Region 9 and during Assembly we discuss and vote on matters affecting members of OA Region 9 and how we can best “carry the message of recovery to the still suffering compulsive eater”.

R9 Service Bodies (Intergroups, National Service Boards, Language Service Boards, Special Focus Service Boards) are asked to send their elected Representative(s) to participate in the business of R9

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for this Assembly. Assembly representatives are asked to make a commitment to R9 service the following year.

This is the second year we have run Assembly on Zoom. Last year we found that it worked well to combine Zoom meetings with a defined period of email correspondence (the 2 weeks prior to Assembly on Zoom). This is how we will conduct business in 2021 as well.

As Assembly is once again 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 include:

- Elections of Officers for the coming year
 - Chair 2-year term
 - Communications Officer
 - Affirming Trustee nominations
- 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.

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.

Your service body will benefit enormously by sending a representative who will:

- 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

The work of Region 9; the trustee, board, committees and volunteers is all year around; we love Region 9 and we find that working together we can carry the message of recovery better to the region. Together we get better.

You will find the information about registering and attending the Assembly contained both in this communication and also on www.oaregion9.org If anything is unclear or you need more information, please let us know.

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Program

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Email

By the **end of Monday October 18th**, 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 22nd**.

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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, 2021**.

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

We understand that not everyone has access to a printer and the pandemic makes it difficult to get signatures from your service body chair so we have created e-forms for the registration.

Here is the registration form for REPS: <https://szhmu0zqs19.typeform.com/to/WqiUYCJB>

There is a different form for visitors see the section about visitors below.

***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.

The following is the Registration procedure:

1. Complete the Online form
2. Cindi will acknowledge and send an email to your service body chair
3. The chair of your service body will complete the form to confirm you have been voted as the representative by the proper process
4. You will be sent the payment details
5. You make the payment of the registration fee
6. Once we have a. Form b. your chairs confirmation c. your reg fee... you are then registered
7. You will be on the email list, receive all correspondence etc from then on in

For any questions about the registration process and accommodation email Cindi on:

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Registration2021@oaregion9.org

Assembly Attendance

PLEASE BE AWARE that the Zoom Assembly sessions will take place on Wednesday 27th in the morning, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th all day in 3 sessions with 2 x.1 hour breaks between sessions (awareness of our wellbeing and the potential strain of being on Zoom for long periods of time are very much in our minds).

PLEASE ENSURE that the Representative is aware that he/she/they 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

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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.

Here is the registration form for visitors: <https://szhmu0zqs19.typeform.com/to/vaSRHWYJ>

Visitors are also welcome to serve on R9 Committees.

PROPOSING BYLAWS OR POLICY MANUAL CHANGES:

Included with this information is the invitation to propose new motions (form 7) and the deadline for submitting these is July 28th 2021.

SERVICE TO OA REGION 9

Giving service to OA Region 9 is vital to our continuing existence.

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We will be holding elections for the positions of:

Chair (2-year term)

Communications Officer (2-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 2019 the Region 9 Assembly decided that the 2021 Assembly & Convention would have been hosted by the Caledonian Intergroup in Scotland, and the 2022 A&C would have been hosted by the Gauteng Intergroup in South Africa. At that time we had no host committee for 2020 and the Board were very grateful that the Spirit of Hope intergroup in Ireland stepped up. Sadly for us all we were not able to travel to Ireland in 2020 due to the pandemic, as we all know, nor would we be able to travel this year either.

Initially, last year, we thought that we could ask the hosting committees to all move back a year Ireland to 2021, Scotland to 2022 and South Africa to 2023. And they agreed. However, as the pandemic persists and lockdowns and travel restrictions remain wholly unpredictable we cannot go ahead even with this revised schedule of assemblies and hosts as it is.

In fact, in our bylaws and P&P, it states that the Assembly must vote on where the assemblies should be held and since it will have been 2 years since the last vote and so much has changed (indeed maybe for the original hosting committees much has changed); the board feels we need to invite the hosting committees to re-state to the Assembly 2021 their commitment and desire to host, and for the Assembly to vote again as to who hosts 2022, 2023 and 2024 from those that are indeed willing and able to proceed.

In summary, we look forward to seeing you all in the virtual realm in October!

Alexandra D.
Region 9 Chair

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