

COMMUNICATION OFFICER'S REPORT TO REGION 9 ASSEMBLY 2021

I was elected for this job at the Assembly 2020 for one year because the former CO had to step down. English is not my native language so to be honest I had NO idea what I was saying yes to, had no idea about the CO job description! Part of my day job is project managing and I am ok with IT skills so I thought this would be interesting challenge to take on. And for sure it was! I was lucky that the former CO gave me a lot of time for the overhaul, and I think my handover for this new role went really well. I am very grateful for this learning experience and thankful for the trust I received at the election. I took on this role at my second R9 Assembly 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 2021.

Website

At the last year Assembly, we got a new webmaster who I was in close contact with. Then life happens and the webmaster had to step down in the middle of the season and a former webmaster stepped in and has been a great help. This term I have been in contact with two brilliant web-manager who has done a fantastic job maintaining the R9 website. The only problem is that our website is not up to date and I have been looking for offers of renewal of our website. Hopefully in the next term a new modern website for Region 9 that will work well in all media, will be presented.

Committees

CO has close connection with all the committee chairs elected at the last Assembly as well as "meeting" them every other month with the Board. The work was mostly by setting up meetings on Zoom and sending out Announcements. For examples about the important of having OA literature translated in the local language. Making sure the deadlines for the Translation and Projects Fund were announced appropriately. Helping Love the Differences Committee to set up a great workshop by enlarging the Zoom account so we could have as many attendees as needed and helping Twelfth Step Within Committee set up great 9 weeks, traditions study and workshop.

Newsletter

Our newly elected Newsletter Coordinator, Terese, made sure that a wonderful Newsletter went out in December 2020. Including voices from the Assembly 2020 from

UK, France, Greece, Israel, Switzerland and Iran. 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.

At last, but not the least I want to give my biggest gratitude to the R9 Board – Alexandra, Ricki and Ilanit – for everything I've learned from you and for your wonderful and unselfish service and hard work. It has been an honour to work with you. Also, I want to thank our Trustee, Vasiliki, who has gracefully and consistently shared invaluable wisdom, experience, and knowledge to the board meetings.

Gudrun Kristin

Communications Officer