

Love the Differences Committee Report

Dear R9 members,

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who served for a brief or longer time in this Committee. We all did the best we could.

We started working without any clue for what this committee was about because there was no one serving in the Love the Difference Committee when we took over.

It took us quite some time to figure out what the Love the differences Committee Purpose could be. We agreed that the OA's "Unity with Diversity Policy" and the OA's Unity with Diversity Conference Committee Statement of Purpose express our committees' purpose, but we also agreed that we should focus on the particularities of our region (different languages – cultures).

So, we ended up with the following purpose:

"Unity with Diversity" Policy

THE FELLOWSHIP encourages and promotes acceptance and inclusivity. All are welcome to join OA and are not excluded because of race, creed, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or any other trait. We welcome all who share our compulsion.

THE FELLOWSHIP of Overeaters Anonymous recognizes the existence of individual approaches and different structured concepts to working our Twelve-Step program of recovery; that the Fellowship is united by our disease and our common purpose; and that individual differences in approach to recovery within our Fellowship need not divide us.

THE FELLOWSHIP respects the rights of individuals, groups and service bodies to follow a particular concept of recovery within Overeaters Anonymous and encourages each member, group and service body to also respect those rights as they extend the embracing hand of Fellowship to those who still suffer.

THE FELLOWSHIP encourages each duly registered group and service body to affirm and maintain the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous by allowing any member to share his or her experience, strength and hope in meetings regardless of the individual approach or specific concept that member may follow. Duly registered is defined as being in full compliance with Bylaws, Subpart B, Article V.

— OA Business Conference Policy Manual

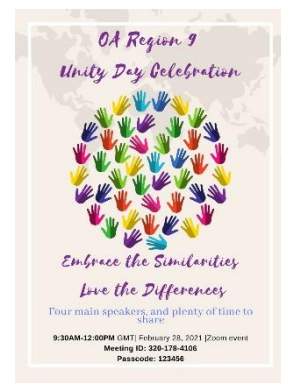
In our Region this OA Unity with Diversity policy is very important also because there are OA members from different countries with different languages, cultures and beliefs.

Our committee is trying to find ways to encourage acceptance and inclusivity in our language and our actions while growing unity through our Region.

We organized an Event for the members of R9 on Unity Day with the title "Embrace the Similarities, Love the Differences".

In general, we all had the feeling that this event went well. We had about 140 participants and we think that the members liked the event and that the 4 lead shares and then the open sharing helped in spreading the message of recovery and unity.

For this event we also prepared a video with the theme Love the Differences and we are looking forward some day to see it posted in the R9 Website.



We also recorded the lead shares and hope that we can find a way with the GDPR to post them as podcasts so members can hear the experience, strength and hope of the people sharing about the topic of Unity.

Some ideas that our Committee had and would like to materialize are:

- To create a Love the Differences space in our R9 website with podcasts, pictures, stories and poems in order to strengthen the unity in our Region and of course to carry the message of recovery with the 12 Steps of OA. This was one of the first ideas we had in our committee, but its implementation includes various issues related to technical staff in relation to our R9 website as well as issues that need to be resolved and concerning the GDPR.
- To organize similar events such as the one we did for Unity Day with different topics. Some of these topics are:
 - Asking from special focus groups in R9 to help us find speakers in order to share about acceptance and the joy of togetherness.
 - Organize an event focused on different languages – speakers sharing in their own language and translated into English.
 - Organize an event on sponsorship day – finding speakers who work the steps differently with their sponsees.
- Create a Love the Differences leaflet.

There are many ideas and there is always a need to strengthen fellowship and friendship and acceptance between the members of our Region, because then it is easier to transfer the message of recovery. So, it is important for this committee in order to be able to work to have members who will serve with us.

In our program we learn that we can't do it alone, but together we can do miracles.

Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to be of service, to meet so many members and to learn so many new things.

Loudovika

Chair of the Love the Differences Committee