

**REGION 9 ASSEMBLY, OCTOBER 26-28, 2016**  
**Hoeven, Netherlands**

**Minutes**

**WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2016**

**ASSEMBLY SESSION 1**

**Readings:** Serenity prayer in Dutch and English. Twelve steps, Twelve traditions, Twelve concepts of OA service, R9 Moto, Statement of Purpose, Unity with diversity statement, Responsibility pledge, I put my hand in yours, 3rd step prayer, 7th step prayer, Statement of abstinence and recovery.

**Getting Started**

Introductions: the board introduces themselves.

Welcome

Thank You's

Green Dots (13 green dots)

Languages: Out of 21 reps, 13 do not have English as their first language

We have one minute of silence to settle in.

One round with the microphone to state our intention for this assembly.

Roll call of how long in OA

❖ **Credentials Report**

Total number of voting members present: 23 (reps: 21, board members: 2)

16 countries represented:

United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Israel, France, Greece, Belgium, Iceland, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, Scotland, South Africa, Italy, Spain, Germany.

Quorum constituted; 5 countries represented.

I move the credentials report is accepted as presented. Second?

Credentials Report accepted and adopted as presented.

**Unaffiliated Service Bodies (voting)**

There were no representatives from unaffiliated Service Bodies present.

**Business Basics**

**Assembly Overview & Process**

- o The chair explains the use of the binder, elections procedure, workshops and the Consent Agenda.
- o The chair recommends the "Handbook for members, groups and service bodies".
- o The chair explains briefly the new "task force" (change in committee structure).

### Parliamentary Procedure

The parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules were briefly explained to the Assembly by the parliamentarian.

### Agenda Approval

The Agenda for the assembly 2016 was adopted as presented.

### Adoption of Ground Rules

Ground Rules 2016 were presented and explained to the assembly.

### Approval of the 2015 Assembly Minutes

The 2015 Assembly Minutes were approved.

### Appointment of the Minutes Approval Committee

The committee members appointed were: **Perline, Meike, Angeliki**

### Timekeeper & Timing

The timekeeper appointed was: David.

### Explanations:

The chair talks about the procedure regarding announcements, the importance of asking for help (ask your mentor, ask the board, ask the parliamentarian) and the informal motion-session.

### Announcements

### Serenity Prayer

## **WORKSHOP 1**

1. Counting length of abstinence: we were passing around a box with dots, every rep took the amount of dots that equals their years of abstinence. In total, we have 201 years of abstinence.
2. Getting to know each other (Ice breaker).
3. Sharing of triumphs
  - IG Netherlands: Has one IG (21 meetings). IG-meetings are rotating and held in different cities. Service positions in IG are filled. Members are recognising the importance of 7<sup>th</sup> tradition.
  - Heart of England: strong IG, rotation of service positions, annual convention, good financial situation. Active members that are willing to do service.
  - Greece, NSB: Focus on translating literature. Good teamwork with members that are willing to do service.
  - Sweden NSB: struggling with service positions; monthly board meetings, need to focus more on tradition 3 and 5.
  - Italy NSB: recent convention, good service team, there are 6 IG's, not all service positions are filled. Trying to improve PI work.
  - Spirit of hope, Ireland: little IG but a successful convention, spreading hope... Have organised an open evening PI talk, strong PI committee pushing for awareness.

- Flemish IG, Belgium: 4 Flemish IG's; 2 are doing well. New PI committee, a new group has started. Translation of two posters and the R9 flyer.
- Caledonia IG, Scotland: strong IG; service positions are filled. UK National assembly was held in Scotland. Abstinence requirement was changed. Bylaws were changed to make it easier to become a board member.
- South Africa: 13 meetings. Have revised the bylaws. Trying to reach out to regions that are difficult to reach. The biggest challenge right now is translation.
- North West IG: 13 meetings; healthy PI committee, board positions filled, annual retreat, monthly newcomer focus workshop. Will be hosting next year's national assembly.
- OAGB: 101 meetings. Have been struggling in the NSB since there have been vacant positions. There are new people on the board and the NSB is getting stronger.
- Portugal NSB: 3 meetings; there is a need for continuity, one group is not following traditions. The groups would benefit from connecting more with each other.
- South & East IG: Retreat in Norfolk, new PI package is coming up. Have had reps at WSBC and R9. Have made contributions to R9.
- Poland NSB: Need a parliamentarian, wants to conduct business according to Robert's rules. The NSB has a new website; a newsletter and translation is in progress. Will be creating an OA-app.
- German NSB: groups are getting smaller and some groups close down. Focus on abstinence, step work and PI need to increase.
- France, NSB: meetings in French and English. Groups' 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions are not always forwarded to the NSB and that has caused problems with the budget.
- Greece NSB: the translation of 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Overeaters Anonymous is finished; the NSB has created a new website as a tool for PI, there is a new IG (Tessaloniki).
- Iceland NSB: strong board, national assembly in November, new treasurer to be elected. Groups are getting smaller and there is too little rotation when it comes to service positions.
- Israel NSB: 5 IG's, 83 meetings, new website modelled after oa.org, there are several PI projects going on, translation continues.
- Spain NSB: groups were getting smaller or closed. The situation is getting better, there are new members in the NSB; new website, strong PI committee, NSB has monthly skype meetings. Translations of voices of recovery.

#### 4. Sharing of problems & possible solutions

## **THURSDAY, October 27, 2016**

### **ASSEMBLY SESSION 2**

Readings: 12 steps, 12 traditions, Responsibility pledge, OA motto, Voices of recovery

#### **Questions Arising out of Reports:**

##### Chair:

Q: how is your experience so far as a chair in R9?

A: some things took longer than anticipated; I'm getting used to it.

Q: why not attend the 3rd RCC meeting?

A: the third meeting is a travelling meeting and time-wise too close to the R9 assembly. The purpose is to observe other assemblies; I have been region chair before and do not necessarily need to observe another region's assembly. This trip would not have been a good use of our funds.

##### Secretary:

no questions were asked

##### Treasurer & Finance Committee:

Q: Cost of bank charges for transferring contributions to WSO

A: Bank charges vary; depends on currency. This year, our bank charges were 360 euros.

Q: Can one country send royalties to WSO through R9?

A: This is currently being discussed by the R9 board and trustee.

##### Trustee:

The trustee has provided an addition to her report.

Q: Clarification regarding paying royalties.

A: There are no changes in royalties when it comes to translated literature (10%).

##### Literature & Translation:

Q: has the new step study workbook been published?

A: Yes, it has been out of stock but has been reprinted.

##### Electronic Communications:

No questions were asked.

##### Bylaws:

No questions were asked.

##### Public Information:

Addition to report: the guidelines for social media have been distributed to R9. The "Do you eat compulsively?" leaflet has been printed. It has been very well received and has already been translated into Hebrew, Dutch, Greek, and Italian.

No questions were asked.

### Twelfth Step Within:

Addition to report: the virtual speakers list will be discontinued. Too few groups have been utilising the list.

No questions were asked.

### Extra time for questions:

- o Registration fee, why 50 euro but 33 pounds (would be 42 pounds): that was a mistake, 50 euros was the equivalent of 33 pounds some years ago; we simply have overlooked to check the new exchange rate.
- o Why a parliamentarian from Canada? We budget for a local parliamentarian but Bob from Canada was in Holland (we did not have any travel cost to pay for him). There is an amount budgeted for the parliamentarian (travel cost, accommodation and meals).
- o What does "creating a tie" mean? If the circumstances require, the chair is able to "step down" from their position and to speak pro/con and to vote.

➤ **Adjustment to agenda:** we are not ready to discuss the budget yet; we move to:

## **WORKSHOP 2**

Fun with motions. Our parliamentarian is explaining motion-procedure with a mock-motion.

### Motions Informal

Informal discussion on the Bylaw amendments and the Business motions.

## **FORMAL BUSINESS**

### Consent Agenda

BL B

BM 1

BM 3

No items have been removed from the consent agenda.

Proposal: add BM 2 to the consent agenda. Objection; BM 2 will not be added to the consent agenda.

Proposal: add BM 4 to the consent agenda. No objections. BM 4 is added to the consent agenda.

### Consent Agenda (as revised)

BL B

To bring Region 9 Bylaws into compliance with changes made at WSBC 2016.
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BM 1

To ensure P&P reflects current practice.
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**BM 3**

To make sure there is a policy for whenever this will happen again in the future.

**BM 4**

Allowance for full online banking.

- **Counted vote. The motions on the consent agenda have been adopted**

**Bylaw Amendments and Business Motions voted on separately**

**BL A**

Increase size of Region 9 Board.

Amendment 1: strike Member at large; insert General Officer (red). Amendment 1 has been adopted.

Emma, Amendment 2: divide the questions (seconded by Ewa). Split between d and e.  
Amendment adopted

**BL A d, "Communication Officer":**

Questions that arose: would the communication officer substitute the webmaster? How would an extra officer affect our finances? What are the exact duties of this communication officer? Are there specific skills required for the service position?

Counted vote (requires a two-thirds majority)

Yes: 13

No: 8

The motion fails

**ASSEMBLY SESSION 3**

**Continuing with BL A e, "General Officer":**

Counted vote (requires a two-thirds majority)

Yes: 22

No: 1

The motion is adopted

**BM 2**

Anonymity of the Region 9 officers and a back-up for whenever a problem occurs.

Questions: which other emails would one use? Have officers in the past refused to use the generic emails?

Counted vote (requires a simple majority)

Yes: 22

No: 1

Motion has been adopted.

### **BM 5**

To make the P&P more user friendly.

Questions: where would the service manual be – with the treasurer; help for handover.

Counted vote (requires a simple majority)

Unanimous

Motion has been adopted.

### **BM 6**

To ensure P&P reflects current practice .

Since BM 5 was passed, BM 6 is the housekeeping for this (strike all reference to appendix A)

Counted vote (requires a simple majority)

Yes: 22

Motion has been adopted.

### **R9 Suggested Budget 2017-18:** Presentation, Discussion

Please find the revised budget attached.

#### **Budget 2016**

Some changes have been made

Suggestion: have the prudent reserve at Euro 10.000 (instead of Euro 16.000 suggested in the budget).

Counted vote

Motion has been adopted. New prudent reserve: Euro 10.000.

#### **Suggested Budget 2017/2018**

Proposal line item 3100: Translation/projects fund: increase from 2000 euro to 3000 euro.

Proposal defeated; the amount for the Translation/projects fund remains 2000 euros.

Proposal line item 3008a: double the amount for additional R9 delegate at large to WSBC.

Additional proposal of contingency – if the chair doesn't travel to the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCC meeting in autumn 2017; we can allocate the money from that trip to an additional R9 delegate at large to WSBC. The assembly will make a decision at the R9 A&C 2017.  
Proposal adopted.

### **Collection of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

Euro: 175

GBP: 14.50

USD: 1 cent

### **Appointing officers:**

The chair explains that certain service positions can be appointed rather than elected. Once the OA member has the skills and the willingness, he or she will be considered for the position.

Monica (Spain) has been appointed for the position of chair of the newly created Spanish Speaking Service Board. It is a one year term. At the assembly 2017, a new chair will be elected.

## **INTRODUCING OUR TRIAL SERVICE WORK STRUCTURE**

- **First Session:** Goal setting

Task Force groups

Meike, David, Holly Bob, Úna and Perline will couple up and lead a group in brainstorming ideas for tasks: Meike & Bob, Úna & Holly, Perline & David.

**WORKSHOP 3** ONLINES MEETINGS – HOW & WHY

**WORKSHOP 4** TRANSLATIONS

**FRIDAY, October 28, 2016**

**ASSEMBLY SESSION 4**

**Deadline** for submitting Emergency new business motions. No Emergency new business motions have been submitted.



## Election of Service Positions

- R9 Secretary (2 year term)

Emma	Votes cast: 24	Yes votes: 22	No votes: 1	Blank: 1
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- R9 Treasurer (2 year term)

	Votes cast: 24	Yes votes	No votes	Spoiled: 1
Úna		13	0	
David		10	0	

- New board member: General officer (1 year term)

David	Votes cast: 24	Yes votes: 21	No votes: 0	Blank: 3
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- WSBC R9 Delegates at large

Olafia	Votes cast: 24	Yes votes: 14	No votes: 7	Blank: 3
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- S/election of Task force coordinators (1 year term)

	Votes cast: 24	Yes votes	No votes	Blank: 1
Ewa		21	0	
Isabella		21	0	
Margaret		23	0	

## Election of Assembly/Convention Venue for 2017 & 2018

Two service bodies had prepared a bid for the R9 assemblies 2017 and 2018. The Iceland NSB for 2017 and the South-East-Intergroup (UK, London) for 2018.

- **Second Session:** Task Forces

Brainstorming and creating tasks that fit the three goals:

Prioritise Abstinence, Promote a culture of service, Grow unity.

Every group selects their top tasks and writes them on a flip char

## ASSEMBLY SESSION 5

### ▪ **Second Session:** Task Forces **Continued**

The assembly voted for the most relevant tasks (three tasks per goal were selected). The assembly was splitting up into the various task forces and created an action plan for the tasks.

These are the goals for the coming year:

Prioritise Abstinence (Margaret, Ireland - coordinator - abstinence@oaregion9.org)

- Daily reading journal with abstinence focus
- Visit meetings – grow unity (outreach)
- Setting up virtual meeting with TSW focus

Promote a culture of Service (Isabella, Sweden - coordinator - service@oaregion9.org)

- Create fundraising committee
- Service desk (help desk & documentation)
- Financial OA glossary

Grow Unity (Ewa, Poland - coordinator - unity@oaregion9.org)

- Twinning of Intergroups from different countries
- Translate Workshop (Translation) → Rep. service and lead the workshop at home; IG, NSB or group. Post translated workshop on website.
- R9 email-group for certain languages

### **Wrap up session**

Green Dot Ceremony

Personal Sharing

Closing

Readings & Responsibility Pledge

In Love & Fellowship

Isabella