

Dear OA friends in Region 9

The Region 9 Board has been discussing several issues around translation procedures that came to our attention. After developing a policy statement to help direct our efforts, we chose to focus on this issue first:

- The OA website (www.oa.org) contains many "Materials" which are available to download *in English*, to be used by members of OA. Materials such as different kinds of meeting formats, OA policy statements, assistance for group secretaries and treasurers, PI posters, newsletters, workshops and more are available.
- Yet any use of these materials by non-English speaking OA groups or service bodies required completion and approval of special legal translation agreements through WSO (World Service Office). The Region 9 Board felt this practice was unfair and we began looking at what could be done to change this procedure.

The issue had been raised before WSBC (World Service Business Conference) this year at a Board of Trustees meeting. Because of the complexity and in consideration of two important issues, copyright ownership of OA materials and quality of translation, a solution was not easily found originally.

The 15 Region 9 delegates at WSBC this year agreed to increase awareness among the fellowship regarding what we felt was an unreasonable policy that put R9, with our 33 different languages, at a disadvantage in using the materials on the website. The more we discussed this issue at Conference, the more it became apparent that OA members worldwide were in agreement with us in Region 9, that something needed to be done to make access to these materials easier for non-English speakers.

We prepared an Emergency New Business Motion to present to the Conference addressing this matter, requesting that the Board of Trustees take action to rectify this unfairness. Our motion was indeed deemed an "emergency" but there was no time left to debate the motion. But the Board of Trustees made an announcement on the final day of conference describing a possible solution with a promise to act quickly.

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees along with the Publications Manager of OA worked on this quickly and we now have a new procedure in place.

Here is a summary of the new procedure:

1. OA groups and service bodies have permission to translate and reprint materials available on the OA website (downloadable PDF files or text) without written permission (not including photographs).
2. The translated materials must include language (in the language of the translation) stating: This is a translation of OA-approved literature. © [date of translation] Copyright Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. All rights reserved.
3. Send a digital copy of the translated work to the WSO.

Full details of OA's new expanded translations policy for online material can be found online at "What's New" at oa.org/whats-new, and at "Groups/Service Bodies", in the Guidelines section, on the Copyright Requests page.

Here is the link to the Copyright Requests page: <https://oa.org/groupsservice-bodies/guidelines/copyright-requests/>

Note that this new policy is only regarding translation of materials on the OA website; the procedures for translating OA books and other literature has not changed.

We are grateful to all those who helped in making this change possible; we feel this truly benefits OA as a whole.

Now that it's so much easier to do so, we urge you to go ahead and start translating!

Francene A, David S, Emma C

Region 9 Board

board@oaregion9.org

Embrace the Similarities, Love the Differences, In all our Affairs

PS - The R9 Board policy statement is below. If you have any questions or suggestions about translations, please let us hear from you.

"We believe and work toward efforts that reflect the following:

- 1. By increasing access to OA literature/materials in someone's native language, we are carrying the message in a more effective and inclusive manner. This is our primary purpose.*
- 2. Every effort should be made to minimise lengthy application procedures required to translate OA literature and materials.*
- 3. Regardless of where OA members live or what languages they speak, access to OA literature/materials should be fair and equitable."*
