

I attended the R9 Assembly in Athens, Greece from Wednesday 17 September to Friday 19 September. There were representatives there from: England, Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Hungary, Belgium, Israel, South Africa, Sweden, France, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iceland. We also had visitors from Greece, Poland, Switzerland, France, Cyprus, and England.

There were 23 voting Representative, 3 Board members (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and our R9 Trustee. We voted for two people from unaffiliated areas (Lebanon and Egypt) to be able to have a “voice and a vote” at the assembly.

We started our sessions with some sharing about our IG's/SB's. I shared about our coming advert that our Outreach Committee has been working toward and also about the TSW workshops. Many of the other reps indicated they too were having difficulties filling all service positions.

We elected service positions for the coming year as follows:

Susan – R9 Chair, Mette – R9 Secretary (re-elected), Esti – R9 Trustee (finishes her term in April 2015), Aileen – Treasurer, Stella – Acting Banker, Perline – Webmaster, Catherine – TSW Committee Chair, Irenne – Lit & Translations Chair, Meike – Bylaws Committee Chair, Miranda – PI Committee Chair, Chryssa – Newsletter coordinator.

We also affirmed two candidates to stand for election of R9 Trustee at WSBC in April: Susan (Israel –current R9 Chair) and Stella (England – current acting banker).

We had many motions on the consent agenda which involved clarifying or changing wording, correcting grammar, updating information to current practices. These were all passed.

Other motions for discussion involved the Banker role, the R9 Trustee Nominees, financial support for R9 Reps going to Assembly, the Banker and Treasurer roles/duties. We were only able to discuss and vote upon 4 motions plus two that were taken off the consent agenda. (The ones taken off the consent agenda were quite minor changes: one of which was to with archives and the other about the role of Newsletter Coordinator). Considering that we originally had 30 motions before us – we did not do well in addressing all the motions this assembly. As this is a business meeting I believe that we should prioritise the business motions to ensure that they are heard during the 2 ½ days of business.

Again, I found the order of business at the assembly a bit challenging. The Reps are expected to do business from early morning until 9/10 PM. I didn't find this conducive to business discussions and also challenging for attention spans!

We spent time discussing and revising the current budget and also approving the budget for the next year. Two decisions made last year were reversed this year. Both involve a meeting that the Region Chair attends along with the Chairs of the other Regions. [The Region Chair's Committee(RCC) meets at WSBC, again in August with the BOT to work on the strategic plan, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the fall at another Region's Assembly.] The first decision was to accept monies from other regions in order for our R9 Chair to attend this meeting. There was money in the R9 coffers to send the Chair to Indiana (where the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCC meeting will be held this year) but the assembly agreed to accept these donations from other regions. It's unclear whether or not these donations are based upon financial need and I've asked the R9 Chair to clarify this with the other Regions so that this issue is clearer in the future. The second decision was to send the R9 Chair to Australia in 2015 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCC meeting. (Last year we voted this was not a good use of OA R9 funds.) This decision was reserved this year and we have budgeted 4,000 euro for this trip.

While I am normally pretty good about accepting group conscience decisions I am finding this one difficult. As OA will be sending 8 regions chairs and one trustee advisor to this meeting in Australia in Fall 2015 at a conservative estimate of \$30,000 – I really question if this is a sound decision – not just for R9 but for OA as a whole. I would like to see this issue discussed in a wider forum – such as WSBC. I would also be interested in what the members of our IG feel about this issue – so let me know if you have an opinion. (I do have more information about the issue and discussion if interested.)

I finished my service with the Budget and Finance committee – which was quite involved this year and am now serving on the TSW Committee at R9. We again have 2 countries to contact: Poland and Gibraltar. (More on TSW in my next report.)

The serenity prayer in different languages is one of the uplifting portions of the assembly. It's also great to see OA literature printed in the various languages of our region. There is a fund at R9 to help with the translations.

We did not have any qualified candidates for the position of banker and are currently looking for someone to fill this position. This person must reside in the UK and be able to conduct banking transactions here. If you –or anyone you know of – is interested: the qualifications and duties can be obtained through me (I'll put you in touch with the current banker).

R9 is also without a host IG for the 2016 Assembly. The TSW Committee will be discussing this in our next meeting as we had previously considered submitting a bid to host. While this involves organisation and work, I think the rewards of hosting would be beneficial to our IG.

I thank you for this opportunity to serve our IG as the Region 9 Representative. It is very inspiring to be able to see how OA operates in R9 and to hear about the program and recovery of people from all over our rather large region!

Francene