

Dear OA Region 9 Fellows,

In May 2018, there will be a new law coming into force regarding data protection called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This Regulation will apply to every organisation based in the EU or that provides goods and services to countries within the EU, and this will include OA.

The aim of the GDPR is for organisations to consider:

- What personal data they store
- Who has access to it
- How it is kept up to date
- What happens when it is no longer needed

Each group, Intergroup and service board will have to take action to make sure they are following the requirements of the Regulation. **This is important because we need to follow legal requirements, and also because as a 12 Step fellowship, we take anonymity seriously and should be doing everything we can to protect the personal data of our members.**

The Chair of Region 9 has set up a committee to write some recommendations for groups and Intergroups/service bodies, to help you understand what you will need to do

For **groups**, we will send you a list of suggestion actions for you to take.

For **Intergroups/service bodies** we will send you a simple set of steps to take and some example templates for documents and policies that you might need.

While waiting for this to be sent out, you might want to start thinking about:

- Any data you are currently holding
- Where the data is stored
- If you are currently holding old data, which can simply be deleted, as it is no longer needed.

This should be done prior to May 25th 2018.

The guidance from Region 9 will be based on how the GDPR applies in the UK as determined by the Information Commissioners Office <https://ico.org.uk/>.

It is important to note that when the UK leaves the EU, the GDPR rules will still apply for the UK.

Please watch for more information that will be coming out by email soon. Region 9 will also make information available on the Region 9 website, oaregion9.org.

Thank you,
Region 9 GDPR Committee