

R9 2015 Assembly Report to SEEIG

The R9 Assembly & Convention were held in Paris, France this year from October 28 – November 1. There were 21 representatives, 3 R9 Board members, the R9 Trustee, and a Parliamentarian present for the assembly. Countries represented were: England; Netherlands; Denmark; Italy; Greece; Ireland; Hungary; Belgium; Israel; South Africa; Sweden; France; Iceland; Russia; Germany; and Scotland. There were visitors from: France, Spain, Poland, Ireland, Switzerland, Italy, Egypt, and England.

The business sessions of the assembly start Wednesday at 5:00 and close Friday at 5:00. The sessions start at 9AM and on Wednesday and Thursday run until 10PM.

Wednesday Business: Announcements, IG/SB updates, credentials report, unaffiliated SB voice and vote decisions, orientation to assembly, total abstinence (there were 180 years of OA ESH in the room!), abstinence workshop.

Thursday Business: Officer reports and questions, bringing home assembly information, TSW outreach to countries not represented, suggested budget presentation and discussion 2015-6 and 2016-7; session on questions regarding motions; Strategic plan; committee sessions (more details later in report); deliberations of motions; elections (details follow).

On the consent agenda, we passed motions on the following, without deliberation:

- Change of wording to clarify that that there is a procedure in OA Inc Bylaws to amend the Twelve Step, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service **(BLA)**;
- Change of wording to reflect that R9 Assembly agenda is within the binder material, which is e-mailed to representatives and visitors only, and not service associations/intergroups **(BLB)**;
- Remove reference to policy relating to European Service meeting, that is no longer relevant **(BM1)**;
- Change of wording to reflect we only use *OA Guidelines – Translation Guidelines for OA Literature* **(BM2)**;
- Correction of wording, to use the right names of Board of Trustees and Region Chairs Committee **(BM3)**;
- Remove reference to Region 9 Convention not necessarily being held on every other year, to bring P&P in line with current status of organising the Region 9 Convention **(BM4)**;
- Insert of wording in policy on Manual for National and Language Service Boards that clarifies the reference is to the Region 9 Website (as opposed to any other Region website), so as to avoid confusion **(BM5)**;

- Change of wording to complete event name of ‘World Service Business Conference.’ It was previously inconsistent with the policy headline **(BM6)**;
- To delete out of date policy to instruct WSO to send mailings regarding WSBC to service bodies, as WSO has sent these for years **(BM7)**;
- A detailed description of the Banker’s duties to be added to the P & P **(BM8)**;
- A reorganisation of the Finance and Budget Section of the P & P, to bring in the use of a more complete manual to assist in the understanding of the committee’s, the treasurer’s and the banker’s role **(BM9, BM10, and BM11)**,
- Wording to provide clarification on online banking access to R9 signatories, Banker, Chair and Treasurer **(BM12)**
- Introduction of a standard letter the Finance and Budget Committee can send to R9 members acknowledging and thanking for contributions **(BM16)**;
- Explanation of legality around the Charity Commission for future reference **(BM17)**;
- Insertion to show what financial records are being held by R9 **(BM18)**;
- Addition of ‘A Day in the life of R9 Treasurer/Banker’ to aid in the understanding of the roles **(BM20)**,
- Deleting outdated policy to establish a R9 website, as it has already been done **(BM26)**.

We deliberated and voted on the following motions:

BM 13: Passed – establishes the expense claiming procedure.

BM 14: Passed – establishes guidelines for fund raising projects.

BM 15: (Removed from consent agenda for deliberation) substitute motion passed – introduced sample expense forms.

BM 19: Passed – inserts underlining of current wording, and introduces a standard letter of receipt acknowledging contributions to R9.

BM 21: Passed with amendments– Removes duplication regarding R9 delegates to WSBC. Clarifies qualifications and codifies expectations of the WSBC delegates

BM 23: Passed – to add a line item in budget for purchase of translation software.

BM 24: Passed with amendments - enables R9 to assist in funding service bodies within the region to translate “locally approved literature” (in other words literature that has been approved by R9 Assembly or R9 board, but not by WSBC or BOT).

Other motions:

BM 22: Withdrawn - proposed a sub-committee review of a Big Book study, originating from another region, with a view to seeking approval from Region 9 at 2016 Assembly.

Due to time constraints we didn't discuss **BM 25** and **BM 27**, which related to R9 domain name costs and licensing and copyrighting of material on website.

Friday Business: Approval and adoption of budgets; committee sessions; reports from the committees on upcoming service work; continued deliberations on motions.

Various Items throughout Assembly: details of officer duties and responsibilities during the year (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Banker, Trustee); the Serenity prayer is shared in the various languages represented in our Region – this is always very moving. There are also workshops held during the Assembly. The three workshops covered: 1. Abstinence 2. Translations in R9 3. 7th Tradition. (See attached spread sheet regarding Translations.) The details of these workshops will be posted on the R9 website: oaregion9.org

Elections were held for R9 Service Positions (Chair, Treasurer, Banker, Electronic Communications Chair (Webmaster), TSW Committee Chair, Literature & Translations Chair, PI Chair).

R9 Service Positions for 2015-6:

Francene, England – R9 Chair
Mette, Denmark – R9 Secretary
Úna, Ireland –R9 Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair
Stella, England – R9 Trustee
Sandra, Scotland – R9 Banker
Perline, France – ECC Chair & Webmaster
Holly, England –Twelfth Step Within Committee Chair
Miranda, Greece -Literature & Translations Com Chair
Meike, Netherlands -Bylaws Committee Chair
David, Israel –Public Information Committee Chair
Chryssa, Greece – Newsletter Coordinator

We also elected 3 Region 9 Delegates to represent the region as a whole at WSBC 2016. (Region 9 is entitled to “delegates at large” at WSBC as we have less than 40% representation of our IG/SB's at WSBC.) Elected were: Una, Ireland; Sandra, Scotland; Miranda, Greece. Alternates are: Mette, Denmark; Perline, France.

Hosting Upcoming R9 Assembly/Convention: The region had received no advanced bids for hosting the upcoming R9 assemblies. This put the region in a very tenuous position. We (Holly and Francene) worked with others on an emergency new business motion (until quite late Thursday evening) for how the region would proceed if we were unable to determine during the assembly where our next meeting would be held. Two representatives from the Netherlands were able to contact their service board who then agreed to alter the date of their convention so as to include hosting the R9 assembly; they were able to obtain enough information regarding transport, lodging, meals, and venue to allow us to confirm holding the 2016 Assembly in Eindhoven October 26-30, 2016.

During this “bidding” selection process other IG Reps contacted their service bodies and expressed an interest in hosting a future R9 Assembly/Convention. They were Iceland, South Africa, DDOA and possibly (with some hoping on our parts) some IG’s within England.

This process showed us that advance planning in this area is crucial. It made us aware this is something SEEIG should consider for the future. We hope that SEEIG can discuss the possibility of putting in a bid to host the 2017 Region 9 Assembly and Convention or beyond. Hosting the R9 Assembly is a service to our region and holding a convention after has been beneficial to the hosting IG.

The R9 Representatives serve on one of the 5 committees. Each committee sets goals and makes plans for the upcoming year as they work together to carry the OA message of recovery throughout the countries in R9.

The Finance Committee continues to provide and sell various fundraisers for Region 9. They are finishing up with the luggage tags, card cases, and magnets. They will be presenting a new item for sale in 2016. This is a fun way to help raise monies for carrying the message. This committee also helps the Treasurer and Banker plus works on budgeting.

The Literature and Translation Committee is working on updating their listing of translated literature; compiling a glossary of OA terms; encouraging translation and printing of the R9 locally produced “Do You Eat Compulsively” PI pamphlet; exploring the usage of Babylon translation software; helping with formalities and legalities of translation; encouraging translation of the new OA Handbook.

The Bylaws Committee updates the Bylaws and Policy Manual to include the recently adopted motions. They also review these document for changes and updates.

The Electronic Communications Committee handles the R9 website during the year and all reviews, posts, edits etc. all documents. They also assist the other committees by making information from them available on the website.

The PI Committee: From Francene:

I served on this committee during the assembly. Last year they produced a pamphlet which then became Board Approved Literature: Guide to Carrying the Message. (Check it out – free download at <https://www.oa.org/free-download-guide-to-carrying-the-message/>)

The PI Committee this year is focusing on:

1. **Google ads:** a “how to” for service bodies.
2. **Facebook guidelines:** simple guidelines for service bodies.*
(*Our committee has since discovered that “Social Media” guidelines are also being address by an OA Board of Trustees committee currently.)
3. The PI committee is also completing a locally produced PI pamphlet “Do You Eat Compulsively” for R9 use. It will be available soon for translation and/or printing for R9 service bodies.

The Twelve Step Within Committee: From Holly

The committee discussed the five projects it is currently working on:

- **Sponsors list** – the TSW committee has compiled and maintains a list of members who are willing to sponsor. The R9 TSW committee receives requests from members all over the region who are looking for a sponsor. This service enables them to hopefully make contact with other members who may be able to help them in this way.
- **Speakers list** – the TSW committee has compiled and maintains a list of members who are willing to do a share/chair for OA Skype meetings.
- **Contact with countries absent from Region 9 Assembly 2015** – by reaching out to those countries who haven’t sent a rep to the Region 9 Assembly, we can find out about the challenges they are facing, and see what assistance can be offered. Some may not be aware that there is funding available that may be able to help those service bodies who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford to send a rep.
- **Important dates** – announcements raising awareness of important dates in the OA calendar: OA birthday (third Saturday in January), Unity Day (4th Saturday in February), Region 9 Week (1st week of September), IDEA day (3rd Saturday in November), and Twelfth Step Within Day (12 December).
- **Workshops** – review and putting on website ideas for workshops that have been carried out across Region 9, to share ESH of running the events.

Lists were circulated during the assembly for those R9 reps present to volunteer their service on the sponsors/speakers list. And also for R9 reps to choose a country

that wasn't represented at the 2015 Assembly to make contact with throughout the year.

There were six members of the committee present. Each member was assigned to a sub-committee for one or more of the projects they are willing to serve on. There is a member who actively does service on the TSW committee who wasn't present, but is willing to continue with her commitment this year. The previous chair of the TSW committee stated her intention not to stand for that position again, and I was nominated to stand for the vacant chair position. We have agreed to keep in contact using bi-monthly skype calls, in addition to regular e-mail contact.

R9 CONVENTION

Following the assembly, we attended the convention hosted by the French IG. There were many topics and many speakers. Some topics included were – 12 Spiritual Principles in my Life; Slogan and Tools of Recovery; Recovery According to the Big Book; and 12th Step & 12th Tradition –Carrying the Message and Respect of Anonymity.

From Francene: The convention was a wonder filled experience. There were many people there not only from France but other countries in Region 9 that brought and shared their experience, strength, and hope. Attending meetings, leading a meeting, and sharing while being translated (both from English to French and vice versa) were quite an experience. It gave me a keen sense of how important language is to our recovery path. I was very aware of the sense of fellowship and the dedication to sharing the journey of recovery.

I continue to be amazed and grateful for all the service done in Region 9 to carry the message of recovery.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to be of service and to help carry the message of recovery.

From Holly: The convention offered a fantastic dose of recovery following the (often heavy going) business of the previous days. After getting to know members throughout the assembly, and seeing their commitment to service to OA, it was inspiring to hear their stories, and their experience, strength and hope. I also really enjoyed the bilingual meetings. It was very powerful and moving to spend time with members from all over the region who, despite differences in language and backgrounds, came together over the weekend to carry the message and share their recovery.

The Assembly and Convention were both unforgettable experiences. It was a privilege to do service as your Region 9 representative. I am truly grateful.