

Report from National Assembly 2017

National Assembly this year was hosted by the North West Intergroup and held at Cranage Hall, Holmes Chapel in Cheshire from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon 20th-22nd Oct with a convention running concurrently with the OAGB board meeting on Sunday 22nd.

Registration was from 3pm on Friday and after fellowship over dinner, all voting delegates were required to attend a pre-assembly workshop from 7:45-9:45pm. This was run by Lisa, the OAGB National Service Board Treasurer and was focused on Step 12. We discussed spiritual awakenings, how we carry the message, what the principles of the programme

are and how we practise them in all our affairs, with a particular focus on SERVICE. The Board is now very small (3 members) with two officers stepping down at this Assembly and only one new candidate standing for election. We are all encouraged to think about service.

There was the option to attend Night Owl and Early Bird meetings on both Friday night and Saturday morning and Saturday's business began promptly at 9am with a session lead by Bob, the nominated Parliamentarian for the Assembly. This covered the rules and procedures by which the Assembly would run.

Assembly business began at 10am with readings, establishing of a quorum (25% of voting members), board officer introductions, approval of minutes etc. **73 voting members were present (of 219 possible)** which was greater than the 55 required to be quorate. (There were 59 GSRs, 8 IGRs and 6 Board members)

We reviewed the rules of order and parliamentary procedure then had the opportunity to ask questions about the Board Officer reports along with hearing further about the finances of OAGB. Lisa the OAGB Treasurer provided the following amendment to her report: INSTEAD OF:

We have received contributions amounting to	£12,568
Cost of charitable activities	£12,266
Profit for the year	£301

THE REPORT SHOULD READ

We have received contributions amounting to -	£12,047.48
Cost of charitable activities	£12,650.28
Loss for the year	£602.80

Thus; **OAGB have made a loss this year** and although we have a substantial prudent reserve, contributions are falling year on year. The treasurer's take-home message to groups is to **please be consistent in their giving** (of even small amounts) **If intergroups can give a regular contribution that would make financial planning and budgeting much less difficult.**

Questions were asked of Caroline, as Communications Officer, regarding the new mobile phone for OAGB which is being covered for 3 months at a time by different Intergroups. This system seems to be working well and the phone is then transferred, by post if necessary, back to Caroline.

Board elections were brought forward to the morning for reasons of personal health as the only candidate standing for election, Catherine, was unwell and needed to leave afterwards. She had been co-opted onto the Board in a PI role when a previous officer stood down mid term. She was unanimously elected by ballot to serve on the Board.

The bylaw amendments below were debated and voted on with the noted result. I had thought they were all fairly non-controversial but considerable debate was generated by several of them and various amendments were offered for all motions but with only Motion

Motion A	Hosting National Assembly This motion aimed to make it easier for Intergroups if they would like to bid to host National Assembly two years in advance	Passed
Motion B	Definition of an OA Group This motion was to bring the definition of an OA group in our bylaws into line with the definition as voted on by the World Service Business Conference.	Passed with an amendment
Motion C	Registration List for National Assembly This motion was to simplify and update the process for providing a list of registered voting delegates for the National Assembly to the NSB Secretary	Passed
Motion D	Amendment to Procedures Manual-National Assembly expenses for Board applicants This motion set out guidelines for how new applicants to the National	Passed

Debate continued after lunch and then bids to hold the National Assembly were presented by Devon and Cornwall Intergroup and Heart of England Intergroup to host in 2018 and

2019 respectively. Both bids were won.

Heart of England IG brought an emergency business motion to the Board following the debate over Motion A in the morning. It was a motion to add wording to the bylaws such that if a group have had their bid accepted to host NA 2 years in advance (and signed a contract with the hotel making them liable for considerable costs) another IG cannot then offer a competing bid at Assembly the following year. The emergency nature of the business was then vigorously debated and voted on and the motion failed. Sandra the Chair stated that should another IG ask to bid for 2019 she would tell them that a bid had

already been accepted so they couldn't. It was also noted that there was no immediate threat to be dealt with as business would be conducted in the same order next year so the bylaw wording change could be implemented then, before any competing bids (should they be brought despite the Chair's advice) could be offered.

In AOB, Stella, our Region 9 Trustee, gave a short presentation regarding finances.

Each group in Great Britain needs to contribute a minimum of £68 per year to cover costs of the WSO (includes office costs, Board of Trustees costs, committees costs etc)

Region 9 need a minimum contribution of £18 from each group per year. A total of **£86** per year. We've been "taught" that you give 2/3 of your excess funds to the service level above you and 1/3 to the one above that but in terms of where financial support is required it should be 20% to R9 and 80% to WSO. R9 are the lowest contributors to WSO. She advised that further information on R9 finances can be found on the R9 website at: <http://www.oaregion9.org/service/finance-committee/#region-9-summary-of-oas-2016-budget>

At the bottom of the page a file can be downloaded in ppt format regarding how we as R9 fit into the OA World Service Office Financial Accounts.

Finally; at 5pm, a 7th Tradition was taken, and the meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer. Thank you for giving me the chance to represent our Intergroup at National Assembly, it was valuable and enjoyable service. Attending the convention on Sunday until lunchtime when I took the train back to London was also a great recovery and fellowship opportunity.

