

Minutes of Region 9 meeting, WSBC 2017

Wednesday 3rd May 6pm

Attending:

Francene	Region 9 Chair
Stella	Region 9 Trustee
Ewa	Poland NSB
Jose (Chema)	Spain NSB
Loa	Region 9 delegate (Iceland)
Angela	Heart of England IG
Ine	Sweden NSB
Margaret	Spirit of Hope IG, Ireland
David	Israel NSB
Holly	South and East England IG
Caroline	Great Britain NSB
Miranda	Xalandri (North Athens) IG, Greece
Vassiliky	AY Thessaloniki IG, Greece
Jutta	Austria IG
Travice	Gauteng IG, South Africa
Sheila	France NSB
Chic	Caledonian IG, Scotland

Abbreviations used:

WSBC – World Service Business Conference

NSB – National Service Board

IG – Intergroup

PI – Public Information

Service Body reports

Gauteng IG, South Africa

A new IG Chair has been appointed who is very proactive and enthusiastic. Difficulties include how to retain members, and how to attract younger members. The IG are trying to work with treatment centres. They have seen increasing diversity in age and race of members in their groups.

France NSB

A new IG has been started and is working well. The National Board members have been attending meetings of this IG, and their experience has helped give strength to the IG. There are lots of younger members at the IG, they have created a bilingual workshop to connect the French speaking and English speaking groups. This is important because that way unity through recovery is enhanced. There are 26 meetings in France.

Caledonian IG

The IG is working well and has lots of enthusiasm. They hosted the OA Great Britain National Assembly last year and it was very successful, with 110 delegates on Saturday and 150 on Sunday. They have just elected a new Board of officers.

Poland NSB

The NSB now have a delegate to Region 9 and to WSBC, which is helping to strengthen the Board. Lots of things changed after the newsletter was published. The Region 9 Trustee will attend the National Assembly, which usually has 100 people attending. There is a growing number of meetings in Poland, and the recovery message is getting stronger. The NSB are planning to apply for funding to translate the For Today book and create an app to access the reading for each day.

Spain NSB

The National Assembly was held in Pamplona last month. The Board currently has no Chair or Secretary, so an OA member volunteered to chair the Assembly. Voices of Recovery was recently translated into Spanish. There are 60 groups in Spain, 10 in Madrid, 1 of these is OA HOW. There is a bilingual Spanish/English meeting in Barcelona.

Iceland NSB

The NSB are excited to be hosting the Region 9 assembly later this year, and are having fun organising the event. The invitation has now gone out by email and can be downloaded from the website. They have a new Chair on the Board, and are looking for a Secretary as the two previous people had to step down.

Heart of England IG

The IG covers a large area, with meetings in the countryside as well as the city. There are 14 meetings in the IG and they meet every 2 months. It is a strong IG with good recovery and willing, capable members. They have one vacancy on their Board for a PI officer, and recently elected a new Chair. They have a member on the NSB and have had a number of their previous IG officers serve on the Board. They host an annual convention, and are thinking about bidding to host the National Assembly in 2019. HOE IG takes part in the primary care conference held over i think it is 2 or 3 days at the NEC. its a conference for health professionals and the public and we always have a stand there and also have a 15 slot where members share their experience, strength and hope with the profs and public. its a great opportunity to carry the message, the feed back is usually very positive and all enquiries are followed up by GSRs and the PCC committee members following the conference. funding is in part from the IG, NSB and WSO

Sweden NSB

The Board have had some turbulent times but there is now a new Board and all positions are filled. The officers are working on becoming a functional and effective Board. At the last Assembly, they discussed that some virtual meetings were breaking the Traditions. There was disagreement and controversy among the members, and to help improve this they held a workshop to discuss it. There are 23 groups registered, but they might not all be active so the NSB are contacting all the groups to find out if they are still running. There are 9 telephone meetings. There are 9 leaflets, 2 books and 4 AA books available in Swedish.

Spirit of Hope IG

The IG held a retreat in Wexford last weekend on the theme of Welcome Home. They joined with the Northern Ireland IG in February to run a workshop which was the first time this had been done. There were 7 attendees from Northern Ireland and 23 from the IG. They will hold more workshops in June and October. There are some struggling meetings, with 3 that are not always running. They have no Treasurer so this is being covered by the Chair. They have a literature committee at the IG.

Israel NSB

The National Assembly is next month, the current Board members are mostly finishing their terms so new officers will be elected.

South and East England IG

The IG set their goals for the year in January, which were: running workshops on service, putting OA cards in the local community, a survey of groups to find out what was working well and what help they need, and a PI project. They have already formed a committee for organising the Region 9 Assembly in 2018 and have booked the venue. All Board positions are filled, the Executive Board members are mostly new. They have created a database of members in the IG area willing to do service, there has not been a great response so far.

Great Britain NSB

The Board has 5 members, but there are 14 spaces available. They support 10 Intergroups and around 200 groups. They are in the process of hiring a paid administrator to support their work. They are working on redeveloping their website and improving their telephone helpline.

Xalandri (North Athens) IG, Greece

There are 45 meetings in Greece, and OA Greece is now a legal entity. The Assembly is now run like the Region 9 Assembly with written motions. They have some new members on the Board and only one vacancy. They have translated the OA Third Edition book, and will work on the 12 Step Workbook next, which will take about a year. They recently created a new workshop, and have a Young Persons meeting which has started a virtual meeting. (See also below)

AY Thessaloniki IG, Greece

Ay Thessaloniki is a new IG who has been created in the North of Greece last year. It only has 7 meetings at present, all in Thessaloniki. This is the 20th year of OA in Thessaloniki. They have been

working on public information, and have had several articles published in the newspapers. They have done hospital visits and have attended a healthcare conference and spoke to doctors, nurses, pharmaceutical reps and the Greek national society for obesity. There is currently a vacancy on the National Board. (See also below)

Austria IG

The Intergroup meets twice a year, they have 11 meetings with 3-10 people attending. They have 1 telephone meeting and 1 English speaking meeting. They are doing lots of PI work and have a website. There are only 2 men in OA in Austria and they would like to attract more and also more young people.

Greek NSB report, as sent in by Niki, just before WSBC:

Please find below a brief on activities and issues arisen last year in the OA NSB of Greece that I have prepared with Ludovika, Chair of the OA Greek NSB.

Usually, such a brief is to be shared with the R9 representatives during the R9 dinner in the framework of the WSBC. Vassiliki and Miranda will be with you representing their IGs. They know very well all issues of the Greek OA fellowship and kindly are ready to provide you with any additional information required. It is noted that Vassiliki is member of the Greek NSB as well.

Activities:

Oct 2016 Representatives participated in the R9 Assembly in Hoeven, NL

Nov. 2016 The Greek OA NSB completed the procedures and became a legal entity.

Nov. 2016 The National Convention was held in Patras with great success.

Nov 2016 Approval of our application for a Translation fund from the WSO (\$3,500)

Dec 2016 Establishment of the new committee of OA Young Persons following the example of the WSO.

All committees of the NSB are working smoothly on their tasks.

A number of workshops, events were organized with high participation.

Issues for further consideration:

- Payment of royalties to WSO and archive of the payments. We have been advised that we should clearly mention what is contribution and what is payment of royalties.
- Participation of minors/teens in OA meetings. There is a discussion if a young person under 18 is allowed to participate in a OA meeting without his/her parent/guardian consent (please advise us on it)
- Use of texts from the literature in virtual/skype meetings. We contacted and took advice from Jennifer Nail (Associated Editor, OA) on it.
- We also had an issue regarding a change of a word in the translation of the serenity prayer that the Translations Committee recommended. Some IGs adopted this recommendation and some has decided against it. So when the fellowship members are saying the prayer together this sounds strange and it creates unity issues. We have asked the opinion of the R9 trustee and decided to bring the issue back to the Translations Committee and then bring a motion, if needed, to our national assembly.
- Finally, a great deal of inconvenience has been caused by the phrase mentioned in the 7th Tradition of the Suggested Meeting Format, "The suggested donation is \$3.00 or more". In many of our groups the group conscience has decided not to mention this phrase and there is a big discussion in order to find ways to rephrase this.

Sincere thanks you for your support and services.
Have a great WSBC!
With love in fellowship
Niki and Ludovika

General Officer vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for General Officer on the Region 9 Board, and delegates were told to speak to David, R9 Treasurer, if they would like to know more.

The role of General Officer has included until now:

- Weekly announcements to the R9 Fellowship
- Liaison with webmaster and electronic communications
- Liaison with Task Force and several service volunteers
- Working on R9 documents, Assembly preparation
- Maintaining contact lists.
- Answering emails, Skype meetings

Criteria

Where possible, R9 Board members should have at least one year of current abstinence and at least two years of service beyond group level. They should also have been to Assembly at least once before and served as a Rep for their Service Body. Additionally, for the position of General Officer, the applicant should have reasonable experience with Word, Excel and email.

If you'd like to be considered for this position, please contact Francene, R9 Chair, directly chair@oaregion9.org, or Emma, R9 Secretary secretary@oaregion9.org. If you'd like more information from David, feel free to contact him directly at treasurer@oaregion9.org.

Region 9 Translation Policy – Action Items

Delegates were encouraged to take opportunities to talk to others at the Conference about the issue of translation, particularly that service bodies wanting to translate information from the oa.org website into other languages have to apply for permission, whereas the information is freely available to download and use in English.

Suggestions were to raise awareness by talking to others, raising the issue in committee discussions and ask the trustee nominees questions about translations.