

News from the R9 Trustee

Dear OA R9 Member,

Sometimes I am trying to do my best to 'get on with the next right thing' and it slips my mind that I out to write to you between assemblies and let you know something of my actions as your trustee.



These are just a few snippets. They do not cover everything.

➤ Attended the recent BOT meeting Feb 23 – 25th in Albuquerque: -

- Professional Tradeshows committee member. One aspect we are working on is consideration of better use of our funds in provision of electronic files for banners to be made locally rather than ship the large display. We do this already internationally but our discussion was centred around activities in the US.
- International Publications / Translations Committee member (currently chair of this committee), Agreed the application from OA Brazil to translate For Today Workshop & Voices of Recovery Workshop into Portuguese. Aspects of support for the Spanish Language Service Board. Translations Workshop Presentation being considered for the OA.Org website.
- Literature Review Committee. We reviewed : - a) For Today (Book). A better index was recommended. b) Dignity of Choice. A full review and recommendations were made. c) Questions and Answers Leaflet. A full review and recommendations were made.
- Voted on and agreed that the OA 12 Steps & 12 Traditions revised book be considered by the fellowship at WSBC 2017.
- Voted on and agreed that the new publication Twelve Concepts of OA Service Pocket Guide be considered by the fellowship at WSBC 2017.
- Board & Region trustees discussed on an informal basis (without any voting or decisions) some matters which affect us all. Considerations included: -
Fewer face to face board meetings. The work would then be done electronically or by remote attendance. Many meetings throughout the year are already being carried out electronically. During this BOT meeting a trustee attended remotely for many of the meetings and as a first experience it was a good one. This is an attractive prospect for us all and in particular for our region. This discussion is ongoing and some considerations will need to cover: - Saving of funds and travel time. Time difference for the remote attendee (some meetings go on until 9.00 PM in Albuquerque – that is 3.00 AM in the UK (4.00 AM in Paris & 6.00 AM in Tel Aviv)). Electronic Meetings can be tiring when members engage for many hours. Team building.
WSBC restructuring. Concept 2 in part states: - 'WSBC is the voice, authority and effective conscience of OA as a whole' and the principle behind that concept is Conscience. As OA members we all have the utmost respect for our world business meeting and it will be the fellowship's decision on any changes that may occur. Some aspects that were discussed at our BOT meeting:
What is the core function of the WSBC? Do we need to change what we spend our time on?
WSBC arrangements currently include incurring costs for delegate materials, entertainment, equipment rental, office supplies, parliamentary, postage, transportation, volunteers, workshops, WSO staff & banquet. We currently have meetings Monday – Saturday.
The current delegate registration fee is \$119 per delegate (which includes the banquet \$50).
The budget for Income / Revenue for WSBC 2017 is \$21,800.00
The budget for Expenditure for WSBC 2017 is \$59,850.00
That gives an expected budgeted deficit / loss for WSBC 2017 of \$38,050.00
The average no of delegates per year is 183 (excluding trustees who do not pay a registration fee).
To breakeven the delegate registration fee would need to be \$330 per delegate (based on 2016 expenditure).
Possible restructuring (from 2020) might include changing our meeting to be from Wednesday – Saturday. This would possibly save funds from the OA, Inc. Budget of: \$2,000 - \$3,000 annually. However, the much bigger saving would be for the Delegate/Service Body of: \$200 per delegate annually or \$36,600 total annually.
As mentioned though, any proposed changes will be fully discussed and the decisions will be yours.
- Appeals from the Fellowship. Concept 5. The BOT were asked to discuss the following topics. This was duly done and the details have been reported back to the individuals concerned.

- a) Any and all information available to the fellowship on the OA.org website (to download and use) availability to the entire fellowship equally regardless of language and it not subject to licensing and royalty agreements. Please be aware that no decisions were made. This is an ongoing discussion and any changes will be reported back to you.
- b) Royalty amounts for publication of OA Literature (in English) were originally changed from 10% to 25% of Net Surplus / Profit. This was withdrawn and the decision was reversed. Our WSO Managing Director will now liaise with the SB concerned.

➤ *Traditions Custodians.* One of the roles of a trustee is to be a custodian of the OA Steps, Traditions and Concepts. As trustees, we get lots of enquiries about actions by OA meetings and how they align with traditions. As trustees, we answer those questions as best we can. We also carry out workshops on traditions. On most occasions when we as members do not keep traditions it is because of lack of knowledge, understanding or experience of them. That is why it is so important for us as members to familiarise ourselves with the traditions by reading about them and studying them. As an OA member, the 12 Traditions of OA continue to educate me. One initiative that the BOT are working on is a very brief presentation for each tradition that will be placed on OA.org. This is part of the Strategic Plan for this year, under the heading of Unity. Unfortunately, there are times when some groups continue to break the traditions in a way that is extremely harmful to OA as a whole. At this BOT meeting a decision was made to deregister some meetings in R10 because they did not meet the current definition of an OA group (Bylaws Subpart B Article V, Section1). This decision was made with extensive consideration, investigation & dialogue with the group members and was not made lightly. These groups have now been de-registered.

➤ *Currently preparing for a Trustee visit to the Italian National Assembly.*
The theme of the weekend is Tradition 4 "Being in balance between autonomy and respect for others"

I will assist in the capacity / cover: -

- Parliamentarian. This should be interesting as I do not speak Italian :-)
 However, I have been able to use the software program that I have on my computer to translate: -
 - The OA Italian Bylaws,
 - The OA Italian Agenda for the weekend, including reports from the officers, proposed new motions, financials, Rules of Order
 - The legal Statute of OA Italy.
- Introduce a mock motion for a trip to Hawaii to show how motions can be handled, amended, divided and voted upon.
- Tradition 4 "Being in balance between autonomy and respect for others" workshop facilitator.
- Morning & Evening meditations.
- Speak about my own recovery on a threefold aspect.

All of the draft translations will not be used for anything that will be published but they are good enough for me to use and hopefully be useful over the weekend without asking a member to spend a lot of time to translate lengthy documents and add to their full workload. Do you think this sort of software might be useful for your service body to use in draft translations for example of A Step Ahead? Please consider this as it may save you some time. The software package was not expensive.

➤ *Currently preparing for a Trustee visit to the Spanish National Assembly.*
The theme of the weekend is "OA Comes with Me"

I will assist in the capacity / cover: -

- Attend the National Assembly as a visitor and answer questions as required.
- "Practicing the traditions in one's life" workshop facilitator.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
 In fellowship,
Stella Cooke
 OA Region 9 Trustee.

