

Overeaters Anonymous Region III Spring Assembly
Houston, TX
April 6, 2013

The Assembly was called to order at 8:02 AM by Region III Chair, Andrea M. She called for a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Steps were read by Tom G. *The Twelve Traditions* were read by Stan S. The Twelve Concepts were read by Jill S. *For Today* was read by Dexter W. *Voices of Recovery* was read by Graciela M.

The Chair introduced the Steering Committee and the Parliamentarian: Andrea M., Chair; Roni B., Vice Chair; Neva S., Recording Secretary; Barb R., Communications Secretary; Barbara V., Treasurer; Vicki W., Trustee; Judy K., Parliamentarian

The Convention Chair, Laura W. welcomed everyone to the Spring Assembly.

Barb R. led the Assembly in a guided meditation.

The Chair appointed Dorothy B. to take informal notes which would be transcribed and emailed to all assembled as soon as possible following the close of Assembly.

The Chair appointed Mary S. as timekeeper, and explained the procedure to be followed. She also distributed and introduced a new form for use by Region Reps – “Call to Action” – and shared some suggested ways to utilize it.

The first order of business was the Credentials Report presented by the Treasurer, Barbara V. The amended report showed a total of 29 legal votes consisting of 5 steering committee members and 24 representatives. The report was accepted as presented.

The minutes from the Fall 2012 Assembly in Las Vegas were distributed electronically. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved as presented.

The *Proposed Standing Rules* were read aloud by the Recording Secretary and adopted as presented.

The Agenda for the Assembly was distributed electronically, and was adopted as presented.

The Parliamentarian spoke briefly on the purposes and distinctions between Bylaws and the Policy Manual explaining the reasoning behind some of the Business Motions to be considered.

The Chair invited the attending representatives to come forward to introduce themselves, and share their intentions for the day.

Steering Committee Reports: (Steering Committee reports were distributed electronically prior to the Assembly)

The Chair reported that 2013 has been designated by OA World Service as “The Year of Abstinence Awareness.” WSBC will be held Apr. 29 to May 5 in Albuquerque, NM. She expressed hope that Region III will be well represented. Reminder that partial funding is available if your IG has not been represented for a while. The Region III Unity with Diversity committee will present a motion at WSBC to expand the UWD policy statement. *Lifeline* magazine is doing better. STC workshops are available to all Intergroups in our Region. Planning for the Spring 2015 Region III Cruise (out of either Houston or Galveston) will begin at the Fall 2013 Assembly in Tucson.

The Vice Chair reported on the Assembly schedule (Fall 2013 in Tucson, AZ; Spring 2014 in Dallas, TX; Fall 2014 in Phoenix, AZ; Spring 2015 in ???). The Region TSW committee has been working on contacting unaffiliated groups and non-attending Intergroups in our Region. The committee is sharing the benefits of being affiliated and represented and letting groups know about availability of funding. The VC is conducting STC workshops and is happy to schedule more as needed (last September in Dallas, soon in CO, OK, NM and TX). She asked reps to please complete and return their Assembly evaluations today. Wrap-Up Reports from past Conventions are available via email in electronic form. And, the latest version of the Region III Convention Planning Manual is available to download from the Region 3 website <http://oaregion3.org/>

The Treasurer reported that the fiscal year (Nov. 2011 – Oct. 2012) closed with a net of \$25. Both income and expenses ran at 91% of budget. The February balance sheet was discussed with tentative numbers for March given. Region 3 participated with four other regions in contributing to a PI project out of WSO to place an ad in *Today's Dietician*. A “tablet” displaying the ad at the magazine’s website was passed for all to see. Region 3 contributed \$500 since we had not had other expenses in that area and had the funds in our budget. Also, the \$500 quarterly distribution to WSO was made. The 7th Tradition envelope was passed.

Break. Upon reconvening Mary S. asked for permission and began circulation of a folder inviting representatives to add names or update information on the Region III Speakers List.

The Recording Secretary passed a folder asking representatives to please update their own contact information as well as checking the Intergroup Chairs List for updates needed there. Reps were reminded to contact the Recording Secretary when contacts change between assemblies. Committee folders and committee report forms were explained. Process for submitting motions was explained. She reminded everyone that the informal minutes would be emailed to reps immediately following Assembly.

The Communications Secretary reported that our website has been successfully moved to a new server with many changes and much help provided by Tom G., Barbara V., Beth M., and Clyde M. with thanks. Beth M. has created an interactive form for preparing committee reports. A webpage blog-like entry is

in the works. The committee is strong and dynamic and welcomes others in the region who would like to join in current and future projects.

Our Region III Trustee reported that Region III is now comprised 429 groups in 25 Intergroups with 50 unaffiliated groups. Service, Traditions, and Concepts Workshops are available. There is funding for part or all of the Trustee's expenses depending on the financial status of the intergroup. The workshop can be focused on the specific needs of the intergroup. Contact the Vice Chair for more information. Reminders to send representatives to the Fall 2013 Assembly in Tucson, AZ, and the Spring 2014 Assembly in Dallas, TX. The Region III Unity with Diversity committee has submitted a motion to WSBC to make the UWD policy statement more inclusive, and that motion is on the WSBC agenda. Don't forget to register and attend the World Service Convention this fall. Information is available online. The OA Board of Trustees is looking for applicants to an ad hoc committee being created to review the *OA Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* book for possible updates in 2015. The Board is also seeking input from the fellowship. Applications for the ad hoc committee must be submitted by June 17. There is a new MP3 version of the *OA 12 and 12* available at the bookstore.oa.org under "digital products" for \$15. Also, a new podcast of the journeys of several OA members sharing experience, strength and hope is available through the website www.oa.org. Also on the website – the updated "service pyramid" in the Groups section, the "Newcomer Meeting Guidelines and Format", and members can now set up a recurring contribution to oa.org. An envelope was passed to collect funds for a free *Lifeline* subscription(s).

Bylaws and Policy Manual Amendments

Motion: ARTICLE X – TRUSTEE NOMINEE SELECTION PROCESS. After lengthy discussion and three proposed amendments, a motion to table the entire Motion was passed. The motion is returned to the Bylaws committee for more work.

Motion: ARTICLE XVI – PRUDENT RESERVE. To move this section out of the Policy Manual into the Bylaws. Seconded. Motion adopted.

Motion: ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE. Moving the details of duties from Bylaws to Policy Manual. Motion adopted

Motion: Policy Manual ARTICLE IV – DUTIES OF STEERING COMMITTEE. Creating new article in PM to house the detailed duties moved out of the Bylaws. Motion adopted.

Motion: ARTICLE XVI – PRUDENT RESERVE. Move this section into Bylaws out of Policy Manual. Create new article and renumber rest of Bylaws accordingly. Motion adopted.

Motion: ARTICLE III – BANNER AND MOTTO. Changes the motto from : "Happy, Joyous and Free: Unity in Region III" to "Happy, Joyous and Free: Region III is the Place to Be!" Motion adopted.

The Chair made WSBC mentor assignments, and announced that Kayla and Tom had volunteered for WSBC reference committee.

The next order of business was committee meetings. The Chair read committee descriptions. Committee assignments were made. The folders were passed out and committees were commissioned to meet over lunch and do their committee business, bringing back a report to share at Assembly. The Chair recessed the assembly for lunch and committee meetings.

Committee Reports:

TSW – Mary S. Reminder that the Speakers List folder is being passed. Reported that all unaffiliated groups in AZ, NM, and TX were contacted since the last Assembly. Monthly TSW reminders are going out on the 11th of each month. Contact was made with non-attending Intergroups. Results of the TSW survey were shared at the Friday Forum. Goals for the committee include continuing to contact unaffiliated groups, brainstorming ideas on what we can do differently, possibly addressing relapse – committee members will submit ideas by June 1.

PIPO – Brenda Q. The \$500 ad contribution to WSO came out of the PIPO budget. Goals include – having a presence at professional conferences, creating/acquiring a permanent display board for R3 (borrowing WSO's is complicated) – cost to make/ship/house will be researched.

Comm/Tech – Beth M. R3 website is using a new hosting company. Barb R. has created pages for each of the committees and aliases for committee chairs. They have uploaded more speaker tapes. The fillable committee report form is in development. SC sorted boxes of paper archives to determine what to scan and save digitally. Utah Soaring tapes – still to be done. A statement of purpose change for the committee is that they are no longer doing the *Horizons* newsletter. They will be posting best practices for Intergroup reps. On the website, upcoming events will be in larger type. Donations to R3 can be made online – verbiage for Donate button is being changed. Donors need to include their group # in the message so that the donation is properly attributed. R3 committees can decide what/how to use committee webpage. It can be password protected or public – careful of anonymity.

Bylaws – Stan S. Judy K. has divided the Bylaws into 4 sections for review and matched PM segments to each. The committee will review both documents in a two year rotation – one section per assembly. The Article X Motion will be reviewed and revised for presentation in Spring 2014. The R3 Recording Secretary will reformat the Bylaws and Policy Manual for more ease in making amendments. Updates will be made in accordance with the motions passed earlier in Assembly today. The committee will communicate by email monthly to help keep us working on our goals.

Audit Report – Mary S. There is an updated form for audits which still needs some modification for efficiency. The audit committee needs a best practices document. Audit results were clean – there were a couple of dating issues. The suggestion was made to reorganize the way receipts are kept (sequentially with the checks they represent).

WMF – Irine F. mentioned revisions to the audit procedures. Ongoing sales of refrigerator magnets – we need to get them sold. They will brainstorm fundraisers before August to come up with an idea for the Cruise. She’s asking other reps for ideas/feedback. WMF will use an email list for communications. For the Fall Assembly they plan to have fundraiser ideas/updated audit procedures/proposed Budget.

UWD – Kay S. The proposed Diversity Statement amendment developed by the committee is being presented at WSBC next month. They want to encourage people at local Intergroups and meetings to use the suggested meeting format, write articles on diversity for Lifeline and for local OA newsletters. At STC workshops, provide information about tools for Unity With Diversity.

The *Lifeline* drawing envelope had enough money for one subscription, which went to Graciela M.

The 7th Tradition yielded \$109. We still have refrigerator magnets for sale (here \$1.50 ea., 4 for \$5; at WSBC \$1 ea., 6 for \$5 – cost is about \$.65 each)

Friday Forum Report – Roni B. Mary Sh. Presented the concept/format for the 12th Step Road Crew. Irine F. did a presentation on the 12 Step Workshop series being used in NM. Roni led a brainstorming session on “best practices for RRs”. Questions included the pros/cons of sending reps to region vs. WSBC if funds are tight, and the reminder that there is financial support available for both.

There was no New Business.

The “Call to Action” list was reviewed. Reminder to make group donations – and that it can be done online. The next Assembly/Convention is in August – get registered.

Announcements: There was a question about the folders being passed – need to keep them circulating so that all have a chance to see them. Assembly Convention in Tucson Aug. 16-18 – OA themed game night on Friday. Silent retreat in Santa Fe, Oct. 4-6 – fills up. Galveston/Houston Convention Oct. 12-14. Cleveland OA World Service Convention in August.

Chair and Vice Chair congratulated awesome green dots on their first Assembly and invited them to remove the green dot.

The Assembly was adjourned at approximately 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Neva Schuelke, Region III Recording Secretary